

LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE E-NEWSLETTER

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What does the fox say?

By Bryn Sriver with Holly Hovanec

We're not sure, but Senior Wildlife Ecology student Holly Hovanec is trying to better understand the home range, activity patterns, and general health of fox and coyotes on the UW-Madison campus, including the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Hovanec, who will be entering veterinary school in the fall, has been working closely with her senior capstone advisor Dr. David Drake, Associate Professor of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Extension Wildlife Specialist.

Dr. Drake got involved in canid research in the Preserve after being contacted by Preserve Field Manager Cathie Bruner. Bruner was looking for someone to study coyotes in the Preserve, after receiving more frequent reports of the animals from Preserve users.

In spring 2013, Dr. Drake worked with Junior Wildlife Ecology student Lucas Rapisarda to study the habitat preferences and activity patterns of coyotes in the Preserve (http://friendslakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com/newsletter/08_13/fall2013.pdf). Using walking transects and camera traps, they determined that coyotes were most abundant in the Bill's Woods area of the Preserve and most active between 12:00 and 16:00.

According to Hovanec, radio-collaring and monitoring the coyotes seemed the next logical step to further evaluate their movements and activity. She and Drake decided to also focus on fox

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since there had been frequent sightings of a pair on campus (<http://www.news.wisc.edu/22289>).



This fox was found relaxing in Allen Centennial Gardens last November. Photo by Ed Lyon.

Working with a local trapper and UW research veterinarian Michael Maroney, and in cooperation with UWPD Officer Heidi Laundrie and campus pest control manager Richard Ness, Hovanec and Drake captured two coyotes (both males) in Biocore Prairie and one red fox (also male) near Van Hise Hall.

Continued on next page

At the time of capture and collaring, the animals were given a physical exam, and blood and fecal samples were taken to evaluate their health and screen for disease.



A coyote takes his time coming to after being collared and examined by a UW research vet. Photo by Adam Gundlach.

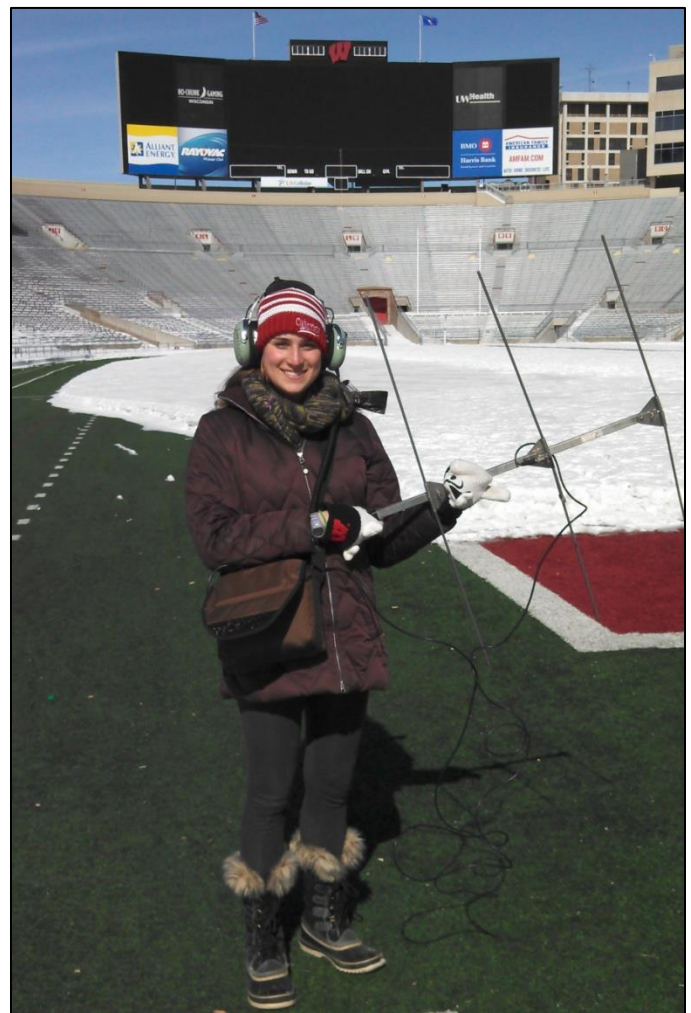
Hovanec conducts daily searches of the collared animals. The coyotes seem to be most active at night and in the early morning. On bitterly cold and windy days she discovered+- the coyotes tend to retreat deep into the cattails of the University Bay and Class of 1918 marshes. On nicer mornings, she has found the coyotes in Eagle Heights Woods and the Village of Shorewood Hills.

One morning Hovanec couldn't locate one of the coyotes. Later that day Dr. Drake received a call from a Middleton resident who had spotted a coyote crossing the frozen lake with something around its neck. The coyote came back to campus the following day.

According to Hovanec the fox has been difficult to pick up consistently on the radio so she has been relying on reports of sightings to monitor him. The fox has a much wider home range than the coyotes and seems to be active at all time of the day. He was first spotted near the Madison Gas & Electric

power plant on E. Main Street; then at the Hasler Laboratory of Limnology at the east end of the Preserve. Just two weeks ago she and Drake received a report of a pair of foxes frolicking in sections D, E, F, G, and H in Camp Randall Stadium!

Hovanec hopes her research will yield information benefiting the safety and health of Preserve users, their pets, and the wild canids. It is possible that the information she gathers could be used to draft plans of management or conflict avoidance, should an issue arise in the future.



Holly Hovanec, a senior in Forest and Wildlife Ecology, tries to locate a radio collared fox spotted in Camp Randall Stadium. Photo by David Drake.

Student members of the Preserve Committee announce *Lakeshore Preserve Student Engagement Grants*

On February 24, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee Student members Michael Amato and Chloe Wardropper announced the *Lakeshore Nature Preserve-Student Engagement Grants*. "The broad purpose of these grants is to facilitate use of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as a resource for education among UW Undergraduates...Any student, faculty, or staff member at UW-Madison may apply...Every student individual or team must have at least one faculty or staff member, who is expected to play an active role in overseeing the project."

The funding opportunity is made possible by the *Academic Endowment Fund* of the Preserve, established by former faculty member Professor Robert M. Goodman and Emeritus Professor Henry Hart, who "encourage others to add to this fund".

The maximum individual award in 2014 will be \$1,000 and **applications are due by April 1.**

More information is available from Chloe Wardropper (wardropper@wisc.edu) or Preserve Outreach Specialist Bryn Scriver (bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu).

The annual grant program is the product of two years of Michael Amato championing both undergraduate education in the Preserve and a process to accomplish the intentions of the Academic Fund.

As Chair of the Education subcommittee of the Preserve Committee Mike conducted a survey of academic users of the Preserve in fall 2013, facilitated a discussion of instructors based on survey results, and prepared the grant program proposal for Committee adoption. The Preserve will miss Mike, who is leaving Madison after completion of his graduate work at the Nelson Institute. Thank you for all you have done to connect next generations to the Preserve, Mike!

THANK YOU PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS!

Since April 6-12 is National Volunteer Week we want to take this opportunity to celebrate the volunteers who committed their time and efforts to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in 2013. National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities.

We are thrilled that 529 people were inspired to get their hands dirty, literally, while caring for the Preserve. Volunteers contributed more than 2600 hours to the Preserve by removing invasive species, collecting native seed, picking up trash, planting natives, cleaning fire circles, maintaining trails, and monitoring resources. A special thank you to the



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve who support the Preserve through land care, outreach, fundraising and advocacy! If you volunteered in 2013 and your name was left off the list or was misspelled, please accept my apology and contact me at 220-5560 or bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu to alert me to my error.



OUR 2013 VOLUNTEERS

Libby Abing	Ekow Bedu-Amissah	Gabrielle Carufel-Wert	Kevin Dewan	Malorie Gaber
Sue Abing	Seth Berger	Anthony Casper	Julie Dewitt	Thomas Gabrysiak
Samantha Alch	Barbara Bergman	Dineesha Chadalawada	Jennifer Dillon	Yuan Gao
Beav Allen	Andy Bernard	Luke Chandler	Thomas Dittus	Mike Garry
Loretta Allotey	Jacob Biel	KaBao Chang	Andrea Doll	Tyler Gasuoda
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Djodjo Amorin	Genna Bonfiglio	Peng Chen	Connor Dura	Kennedy Gilchrist
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Mike Anderson	Martin Boyte	Austyn Chervenka	Tom Dwyer	Megan Grady
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Brian Riley
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Stephanie VanKampen
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Jed Von Helmburg
Radthka Von
Helmburg
Morgan Walcheck
Dawn Wallace
Louisa Waller
Will Waller
Danqi Wang
Monica Wang
Qiang Wang
Xiaotong Wang
Yuqi Wang
Aubrey Warta
Helena Way
Josh Weber
Forrest Weesner
Megan Wellner
Tom Wenzler
Kae White



Margaret Whiting
Dick Wieboldt
Cody Williams
Dale Willis

Kayla Wipperfurth
Ryan Wnuk
Kaylin Wolf
Peter Wood
Katie Worrall
Sarah Wozniak
Jack Wright
Huiyu Wu
Gaochsia Xiong
Lucy Yang
Yue (Vera) Yang
Zikai Yang



Jonathan Yankee
Bennett Yeo
James Yeo
Jennifer Yeo
Joshua Ylinen
Chaoyang Yu
Yefeng Yuan
Jess Yurchich
Connor Zarecki
Chelsea Zenger
Lingxiao Zhang
Yuxiao Zhang
Qihe Zhao
Yue Zhao
Jiawen Zhou
Daniel Zhu
Kelly Zimmerman
Pat Zimmerman
Bob Zydowsky



2013 VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Alpha Phi Omega

American Family Insurance—
United Way Days of Caring

Army ROTC

ABESA (Asian Business and
Economics Student Association)

Ask Big Questions

Beta Alpha Psi

Blackhawk Church—LOVE
Madison

Bucky Volunteer Association

Circle K

CUNA Mutual Group—United Way
Days of Caring

Flying Badgers

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature
Preserve

Girl Scout Troop 2161

Global China Connection

Melli Law—United Way Days of
Caring

Meriter Hospital—United Way
Days of Caring

National Society of Collegiate
Scholars

Phi Sigma Pi

Powers Knapp Scholars

Polygon Engineering Student
Council

REthink

Society for Ecological
Restoration—Make a Difference
Day

Sigma Alpha Omega

Student Leadership Program-
Leadership through Volunteering

Students Today Leaders Forever

TASC (Total Administrative
Services Corporation)

Thermo Fisher—Take a Stake in
the Lakes

Theta Chi

UCP (United Cerebral Palsy)

UPS (United Parcel Service)

US Courts—United Way Days of
Caring

UW Center for Limnology

UW Finance and Investment
Society

UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology
110

UW Horticulture 120

UW MBAs with a Heart

UW Triathlon Team

UW Water Science and
Engineering Lab

UW-Oshkosh—Volunteers on the
Move

UW-Whitewater Management
Computer Systems 785

Wisconsin Union—Alternative
Breaks Committee

WISPIRG

Preserve trees may prove helpful in fight against disease or Butter Safe than Sorry

By Bryn Sriver with Paul Berrang

On a cold day in February, Preserve staff ushered U.S. Forest Service geneticist, Paul Berrang, to a stand of butternut trees near Frautschi Point. Berrang was invited to the Preserve by Dr. Glen Stanocz of the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, who suspected this stand of butternut may aid researchers in efforts to conserve the species. While less known than emerald ash borer or Dutch elm disease, butternut canker is another introduced pathogen that threatens the survival of a tree species and the integrity of Wisconsin's forests.

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), also known as white walnut, is found across a number of Wisconsin plant communities, but it is most closely associated with southern mesic forests. It ranges from eastern Canada west to Minnesota and as far south as Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The wood is valued for furniture, paneling, specialty products, and carving. The nuts produced by the tree are sought after by wildlife and humans alike.

Butternut canker is a disease caused by the fungus *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*. The fungus initially infects trees through buds, leaf scars, and other openings in the bark, rapidly killing small branches. Spores produced on branches are carried down the stem by rain, resulting in football-shaped wounds or cankers (fig. 1). The tree dies when its trunk has so many fungus-caused wounds that the trunk is girdled, and no nutrients can pass back and forth between leaves and roots.

Other problems affecting butternut are hybridization with exotic relatives and lack of reproduction due to lack of disturbance of many of our woodlands (young butternut trees need ample sun and exposed bare soil to thrive).



Figure 1. Black exudate reveals the location of a stem canker under the bark of this tree. Photo by Bryn Sriver.

Butternut has decreased as much as 80% in some states. In Wisconsin, it is listed as a species of Special Concern. Butternut was never common in the state, but it's rapidly becoming rare, and may completely disappear. According to Berrang, if we do not act now to preserve a genetically diverse sample of this species, it may be impossible to do so in the not-too-distant future.

That's where Berrang's work comes into play. The U.S. Forest Service is working with state agencies and the public to locate healthy butternuts among canker-infested trees. The hope is that these healthy specimens may have some level of natural resistance to the disease.

Continued on next page

Berrang travels throughout the Upper Midwest and Northeast collecting twigs from the upper crowns of healthy butternut trees (fig. 2). The twig cuttings (called scion wood) will be grafted onto the rootstock of black walnut seedlings (figs. 3 and 4). After grafting, the DNA in the leaves will be checked to see if they are pure butternut (as compared to a hybrid with an Asian relative of butternut). Once the grafted plants are growing vigorously, they will be planted in a collection of grafted butternut at a northern Wisconsin nursery.



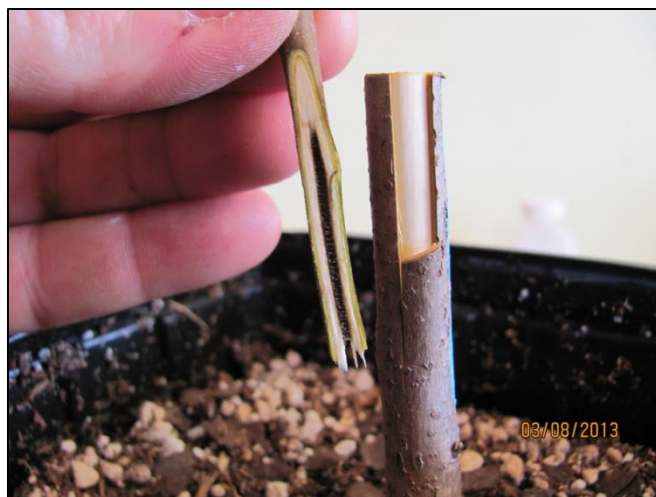
Figure 2. U.S. Forest Service geneticist Paul Berrang collects twigs from healthy butternut in the Preserve. Photo by Cathie Bruner.

When asked why he collects twigs instead of nuts or seeds, Berrang explained that the seeds do not store well. Also, twigs can be used to produce a genetically identical copy of the healthy tree. Seeds will grow into plants with different genetic material than their parents and may not be resistant to the disease even if their parents were.

There is a chance the seemingly resistant butternuts in the Preserve are hybrids. In time, DNA testing will reveal the truth. For now, the U.S. Forest Service is only interested in healthy native butternut plants. If it turns out that there are no resistant native butternut (i.e. the trees they are collecting from are just the last to die), then they may start to think about using healthy hybrids in some manner. Berrang said the U.S. Forest Service is required to plant native species unless there is a very good reason not to, and if it turned out all

native butternut were susceptible to butternut canker, that might be a good reason.

The healthy butternuts in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve may just be the last to die or they may be hybrids, yet it's still exciting to think that they may help ensure the survival of their species.



Figures 3 and 4. Butternut scion wood is grafted onto the rootstock of black walnut seedlings. Photos by Paul Berrang.

Contribute to the Preserve Breeding Bird Study

By Roma Lenehan

Overview

The purpose of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Breeding Bird and Habitat Study is to identify the birds likely to breed and their habitat preferences in the Preserve. Data collected between 2013-2015 will be compared with data from 2000-2002 (Fall 2001 *FCNA News*, or friendslakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com) to see if there have been shifts in breeding birds over the last decade perhaps due to habitat change or bird population changes. The project will try to determine the bird species in the various areas of the Preserve, their approximate numbers, and confirm the breeding of each species, using the methods of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

2013 Results

The 2013 survey detected 84 species in the Preserve. Of these, 42 species were confirmed (C), 26 were probable (Pr), 11 were possible (Po), and 5 were unlikely to be nesting. The 2013 survey noted several species not found during the previous study: Turkey (C), Black-billed Cuckoo (Po), Cliff Swallow (C), Sedge Wren (Po), Nashville Warbler (Pr), Orchard Oriole (Pr), and Eastern Towhee (Po). Twelve species either confirmed or probable during the 2000 to 2002 study were not observed during the 2013 breeding season.

You can help!

Make observations of breeding birds between May 20 and August 1, 2014. Record the following information: dates of occurrence, location, and if possible, breeding activity such as presence of pair, gathering nest material, or carrying food. Send your observations to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406).



Goldfinch eggs (Aug. 25) and fledgling (Sept. 10), 2010.
Photos by Adam Gundlach.

Five Questions with a Volunteer



Name: Connor Zarecki

Years or months volunteering:

About 3 ½ years. I started volunteering my freshman year.

1. *Why do you volunteer?*

At first it was for resume/scholarship application building. I heard community service was important on applications so I decided to try finding some activity that wasn't too time intensive and also interesting at the same time. Now I think it is good to donate a few hours every once in a while to a good cause as a habit.

2. *What do you do when you're not volunteering?*

I am a full-time student majoring in Computer Science and Chinese, so I am going to class and studying most of the time. If I don't make a volunteer event it's usually because I am catching up on sleep, doing homework, or attending church on Sunday mornings. I will graduate in May.

3. *Why do you choose to donate your time to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve?*

I initially chose Lakeshore Nature Preserve because I am passionate about environmental conservation and wanted to do my part to help. I also thought I spent too much time inside and wanted a reason to get out for a few hours every now and then, especially for study breaks.

4. *What keeps you coming back?*

I think it just became a habit to attend Preserve volunteer events. It's also nice to see the familiar faces of other volunteers. I really enjoy the variety of people and the sizes of groups that come out to volunteer. Large workparties can be really exciting when we get a lot of work done, and small workparties can feel more relaxed and intimate. When we come back to work on or near places I have worked before, it's nice to see the transformation that happens in those areas.

5. *You show up to the volunteer events no matter the time of year (or amount of snow on the ground) on a somewhat unusual looking bike. Is there a story behind it?*

My dad found the bike, a Schwinn Cruiser at a rummage sale in 1983. It was already 25 years old then. He fixed it up and rode it at the UW until he graduated in 1986. Then he passed it on to his brother who rode it around campus from 1988 to 1993. After that it sat in my grandpa's garage. When I enrolled at the UW we decided to fix it up for me to use. I'm the 3rd Badger to ride it in 3 decades. Unfortunately a couple weeks ago the bike corroded enough that I can't ride it anymore, which is disappointing. I was hoping to make it to graduation in May.

Eagle Heights Woods – Indian Mounds Unit

By Adam Gundlach

Winter offers a time for planning in the world of ecological restoration. Fortunately, much planning in previous winters led to the approval of the Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan in April 2013. The management plan identified a unit centered on the Indian mounds at the top of the woods as a priority for management efforts. An implementation plan was drafted, and now that plan is beginning to become reality.

Previous efforts had also identified the importance of this area. In 1997, volunteers began buckthorn and honeysuckle removal around the Indian mounds. Over the next few years, their efforts radiated down the south slope of the woods, and eventually reached nearly every nook and cranny of the site, rooting out what was, at the time, predominantly an invasion of honeysuckle with scattered thickets of buckthorn. Unfortunately, lack of resources prevented routine follow-up efforts in the intervening years, which left buckthorn to recolonize the site at its leisure.

In early January 2014, efforts commenced again at removing buckthorn and other non-native shrubs from the understory environs of the Indian mounds perched above Lake Mendota. Over the past two months, Preserve staff and a few hardy volunteers have chipped away at the dense stand that dominated much of the site, cutting, treating stumps, and hauling armfuls of brush into piles along the trail. The neatly-stacked ranks of brush piles now wait along the trail edge to be chipped. The wood chips will be used to line the trail loop encircling the mound group.

Though the work completed this winter is a big step in the right direction, much work is still to come in the years ahead. Buckthorn does not release its grip that easily, and the ceaseless march of young buckthorn seedlings and resprouting stumps will need to be controlled. Regular

vegetation monitoring will be conducted to document the plant community's response to increased sunlight and space, noting the recruitment of any native species from the seedbank. The number one priority is to stabilize and protect the Indian mounds from erosion. To this end, areas with bare soil will be seeded with species that are quick to germinate and establish cover.

The stately trunks of beautiful bur, white, and red oak trees now stand free to breathe in the breeze that often flows over the hill. Hopefully sooner than later, periodic fires will once again sweep across the site, and lap at the feet of the oak woodland. If you get a chance this spring, take a stroll to the top of the knoll; enjoy the newly expanded views of the mounds, the rock outcroppings and the lake. And maybe, just maybe, you will be treated to the sight of an eagle soaring over the heights.



Student volunteers from the Platoon Leaders Club haul and pile cut buckthorn for chipping. Photo by Bryn Scriver



We are looking forward to spring wildflowers.
Photo by Bryn Scriver

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Want an excuse to spend more time in the Preserve?

Feel free to join any of the drop-in volunteer opportunities listed below.

Benefits include: meeting new people, fresh air, exercise, learning about local plants and animals.

- Tools, gloves, and training provided.
- Dress to work outdoors.
- Closed-toe shoes and long pants highly recommended.
- Volunteers 17 or younger need to bring a signed liability waiver.
- Groups are OK with advance notice.
- Canceled in case of rain/snow.

April

April 12, Saturday, 9AM-Noon

April 27, Sunday, 9AM-Noon

May

May 3, Saturday, 9AM-Noon

May 10, Saturday, 9AM-Noon

June

June 8, Sunday, 9AM-Noon

June 21, Saturday 9AM-Noon

For all dates: Meet at Picnic Point lot
129 on University Bay Drive and the
Lakeshore Path.

Contact the volunteer coordinator at 220-5560
or bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu for more info.