



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – February 15, 2018

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Gary Brown, Director

Well, winter has sure been interesting this year, to say the least! A little snow in December for the holidays. Warm in December to start, then bitterly cold as we turned from 2017 to 2018. January was cold, then warm, then cold, then warm, then REALLY cold again. Now, finally snow in February. We really need the moisture so I do not mind the snow. Just wish it would be a bit more steady and not all this up and down, warm, cold, colder thing. As we look toward spring, we are putting the finishing touches on our budget and work plan for the coming year. You'll find that we are indeed more "steady as she goes" and not trying to take on too much with our small budget and staff. We of course couldn't do all that we do without the many stakeholders, students, faculty and Friends that provide the countless hours of support in a myriad of ways. We look forward to working with the Preserve Committee on finalizing our budget and moving into the Spring semester and the warmth of spring and summer months in the field.

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

**Permits since December meeting:**

- 2018-1 – ENG 201 – Shaw - Personal & Social Consequences of Writing In and About Nature
- 2018-2– ECOL 460 – Webert – Bark Gleaning Birds at Picnic Point
- 2018-3– ECOL 460 – Webert – Ecological Gradient Analysis
- 2018-4 –FEW 699 – Stanosz – Sonic/nondestructive tree decay detection

January is the month when staff spends a considerable amount of time planning and, as a team, reviews the past and current plans for the upcoming season. At times, I feel like we have actually already lived through the season. Anyone who works the land management, especially in the Midwest, knows weather is unpredictable and you had better be ready to act once warm weather arrives.

We are in the process of hiring for two temporary-seasonal employment positions; natural areas technician (assists with general maintenance operations-closed 2/12) and the invasive species specialist (the result of a four-year donor-directed gift-application deadline 3/5). In addition to these two seasonal positions, we will also have several student hourly work opportunities available in April.

Safety is number one and always on our mind. To ensure we are promoting and practicing a safe work environment, we are institutionalizing our assortment of processes/efforts into a safety program that covers both volunteers and Preserve staff. We are fortunate to have a wide assortment of UW resources to work with and reference.

Each fall we reach out to our friends and stakeholders with an annual appeal in support of the Preserve. Gift funds support approximately 30% of the general management costs of the Preserve. That is in addition to private gifts that cover capital expenses. Based on our previous/current budgets, the Preserve needs approximately \$70,000 in gifts each year to sustain our on-going financial position. The Preserve received 45 individual gifts during our fall/winter 2017 campaign raising \$ 41,450 for the stewardship fund and \$ 11,145 for the endowment fund. It is still not too late to give. A gift to the Preserve is an excellent way to celebrate or memorialize special events and people. . .while being totally tax deductible. We have received positive comment regarding our annual appeal mailing and I have brought extras for anyone who would like to share with those who you know cherish the lands of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and might be interested in providing support. All gifts to the Preserve are also considered gifts to the UW-Madison. . .a twofer.

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

### **Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- Nielson Tennis Stadium – UW Athletics is planning for expansion of the outdoor tennis courts from six to eight and the addition of spectator seating, lighting and a sound system. Construction is to begin August 2018.
- Lot 129/130 Consolidation – a consultant was hired to design a new parking lot at the Lot 130 and eliminate Lot 129. Plans will be shared with the committee as they are developed. Construction expected in fall 2019.
- City of Madison Water Utility Addition at Well 19 for additional water filtering; currently scheduled for construction in 2020 (which is delayed due to other city funding commitments). Preserve staff will share the draft plans when available.
- The Gymnasium/Natorium Replacement Feasibility Study has been completed. The next step will be for the design consultants to begin construction documents for the building. Expected construction 2020-2022.

### **Capital Projects within the Preserve:**

- No ongoing construction projects.

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

- Eagle Heights Woods:
  - a. Good Oak Ecological Services has completed the majority of brush removal in the West Zone.
  - b. A variety of tree work is scheduled for the remainder of winter, including hazard tree felling along the trail system, tree removals (Norway maple) along the northwest corner bordering Lake Mendota Dr., and hazard tree debris removal around the Indian mounds (ground condition-dependent).
- Sowed seed across the Willow Creek savanna site, portions of Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, cleared areas bordering Biocore prairie, and Raymer's Cove.
- Staff and Preserve volunteer Steve Sentoff continued invasive brush control in the head of Picnic Point, the old field (east savanna), Willow Creek savanna and Bill's Woods Heritage oak site.
- Planning 2018 fieldwork implementation.
- Planning spring 2018 prescribed burn units.

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

- We are currently recruiting for Volunteer Stewards—people who want a regular, on-going volunteer position with assigned task(s). Currently we are looking for Trail Monitors, Native Plant Gardeners, Greeters, and Miscellaneous Project Assistants. Applications are due March 1.
- I staffed a table at the Morgridge Center Public Service Fair on Jan. 24 and talked to 29 students about volunteer opportunities, the Student Engagement Grant, Prairie Partners Internships, and spring/summer student jobs. As in past years, I shared a table with the Volunteer Coordinator from the UW Arboretum.
- There has been an uptick in requests for volunteer opportunities over the last couple of weeks. The first drop-in volunteer work party for the semester is scheduled for Sun. Feb. 18 at Frautschi Point. We will continue to clear buckthorn and honeysuckle to open up the midstory allowing more light to get to native plants growing in the groundlayer.
- Proposals for the Student Engagement Grant are due March 1, 2018. A mass email went out at the end of last semester and at the beginning of the spring semester.