



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – May 15, 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

I'm extremely pleased to report that we have had a lot of great input and engagement in our 2019 Strategic Planning process for the future of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Thank you to all who have participated to date either by taking the on-line survey or participating in our stakeholder meetings. It has been great seeing and hearing all of the incredible input and enthusiasm for taking the Preserve to even great heights. I look forward to reviewing all the input, the analysis and a draft document over the summer months. We'll have a draft set of recommendations for review in the fall and we hope to have the strategic planning process complete by the end of the calendar year. Again, thank you to all who have provided their thoughtful input and participation in this input process. As we continue to move forward this spring, we hope to have good news on our operating budget support from the university. We requested that our 50% time natural areas technician, funded by our gift accounts, be moved to fully university supported and at 100% time. So far, we remain positive and hope that we can gain this additional staff member to assist in managing the Preserve on the land and in the field.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Seasonal hiring has been in high gear. Madlyn Rohr joined us as a student worker for approximately 100 hours near the end of the semester targeting garlic mustard removal. Michal Michiels, rejoined us as a student hourly at the beginning of the semester upon return from a land management internship/work experience in California. Both Michal and Madlyn have graduated and are no longer eligible to work for us as student workers. Jacy Swiggum, a junior majoring in botany/horticulture, will be joining us as a natural areas assistant-student hourly. Jeffery Schneider, a 2015 UW graduate in Environmental Studies and Communication Arts (certification in Digital Studies) has been hired as our Invasive Species Specialist, a long-term seasonal position. Both will start May 20. Applications for our second long-term seasonal position of Natural Areas Technician are being accepted through Tuesday, May 28. Additional information on this position is available on our website. Please share with individuals you feel might be interested. We have not heard anything further regarding if one of our two seasonal positions will be shifted to a full-time position in the near future.

We have been authorized to purchase (funded by UW funds) a new Kubota vehicle to replace a very tired model purchased in 2008.

Strategic Planning has been a significant focus of attention. Forty-seven people attended one of our five focus groups facilitated by staff of UW-Madison Office of Strategic Consulting. As of May 7, 576 survey responses had been received!

The processes, procedures and policies governing UW-Madison programming for youth, under age 18, are being totally revised. While 2019 is a year of transition for the program, I have been participating in their training to ensure we are fully aware of new policies pertaining to groups the Preserve may wish to host and also groups looking at utilizing the Preserve in the future.

Staff met, provided an orientation and tour of the Preserve to newly hired/assigned UWPD officer Jeff Kirchman. Officer Kirchman has been assigned as the "liaison" to UW natural areas which include the Preserve, Arboretum, and additional areas. He brings knowledge and experience working within natural areas and has contributed greatly to increased communications. I hope he is able to join us next semester for a formal introduction.

Permits since March meeting:

- 2019-31 – Rec Sports – Forest Therapy program for staff
- 2019-30 – Madison Audubon – Guided field trips
- 2019-29 – Entomology – surveillance of ticks and mosquitoes
- 2019-28 – BTNY 130 – Lab section use of Preserve
- 2019-27 – UW Arboretum Writing program
- 2019-26 – BICORE – Bat Monitoring
- 2019-25 – WDATCP – pest surveys in Eagle Heights gardens
- 2019-24 – Hoofers Sailing Club A-Scow National Regatta – area use near pier at lot 60
- 2019-23 – Natural Resources Foundation Birding Field Trip
- 2019-22 – Andrews – GatherX monthly use of fire circle
- 2019-21 – Sain – Sex Determination in genus Thalictrum
- 2019-20 – Chotlos – UW Science Expedition
- 2019-19 – Kaarakka (DNR) – Wisconsin Bat Program
- 2019-18 – Schneider – Yeasts & Tree Species
- 2019-17 – LANDARC562 - Schuchardt – Open Space Design and Planning
- 2019-16 – BTNY 460 – Hardin – Biodiversity of Insects in Prairies
- 2019-15 – BTNY 460 – Martin – Abundance of Coyotes in Urban vs Rural
- 2019-14 – Ventura – Garden Club Tour
- 2019-13 – BTNY 460 – Squirrel Food Preference
- 2019-12 – Sentoff – Friends Lake Mendota Lake Forecast Monitoring with CLA
- 2019-11 – Hames – WI Wetlands Association Tour

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- MG&E has completed their work along the Eagle Heights Community Gardens. Electric service is being installed to the Garden Shed area.
- A replacement sign has been ordered for the entrance at Frautschi Point similar to the one at Raymer's Cove. Installation is anticipated later this summer.
- We are also working on creating a safe trail crossing of the bottom of the gully in Frautschi Point Woods.

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- Lot 129/130 Parking Lot is scheduled for construction during June – September 2019.
- Limnology Lift Station project will begin construction this summer, as soon as Hooper's dock area is complete and the Limnology Building and wall along the shoreline repairs will follow the Lift Station project. This all means there will be construction equipment around the Limnology Building that may impact the Lakeshore Path off and on this summer and fall. IF detours are needed they will be well marked.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Recorded vegetation emerging on Indian mounds May 3 to compare with a similar survey conducted in early May 2014 following the initial brush removal.
 - b. Led site tour on May 10 with stakeholders to address management questions/concerns.
- Picnic Point - buckthorn resprout control work.
- Willow Creek Savanna - buckthorn resprout control work.

- Prescribed burns completed at Biocore prairie, Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, and the western portion of the east savanna old field.
- Toured the Preserve with UWPD Officer Kirchman to introduce him and discuss common issues.
- Joined annual Groundswell easement assessment walk in Wally Bauman Woods.
- Toured Preserve with Christy Lowny, UW Arboretum Research Specialist, discussing management and potential for research replicates overlapping with UW Arb plots.
- Hosted student from the Netherlands for a week and incorporated him into management activities.
- Caretaker's Woods – rerouted short trail segment around shoreline erosion.
- Removed downed trees from trails in Eagle Heights Woods and Muir Woods.
- Garlic mustard removal (mostly Bryn w/ volunteer groups, and Roma...)
- Fig buttercup removal in Eagle Heights Apartments.
- Planning 2019 field work implementation logistics.
- Prairie Partners intern crew's first day working in the Preserve will be Thursday May 23.
- The Preserve will host an AmeriCorps NCCC crew the first two weeks of June (3-7, 10-14) to work on brush removal in the west section of Bill's Woods and trail remediation projects in Eagle Heights Woods.
- Picnic Point fire circle/wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Outreach activities:

- Ongoing updates and posts to website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Submitted monthly article to University Apartments newsletter
- Posted/emailed Spring 2019 Lakeshore Nature Preserve E-newsletter
- Outreach regarding online strategic planning survey (emails, social media, postcard-sized invites, kiosk notices, UW Communications and other partners)
- Participated in UW Science Expedition in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with seedball making station
- Sent *Day of the Badger* funding opportunity to Preserve email lists
- Prepare outreach materials and staffed table at Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference
- Led Spring ephemeral wildflowers tour for WI Hardy Plant Society with Glenda Denniston

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers (including 2 new Volunteer Stewards)
- Registered for 1 Summer Badger Volunteer Team

Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:

- Sun. March 31; Drop-in; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle; C. Bills Woods; 11 volunteers
- Sun. March 31; Beta Alpha Psi; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle; C. Bills Woods; 10 volunteers
- Sat. April 6; WI School of Business Service Day; move brush piles C. Bills Woods; 18 volunteers
- Sun. April 7; Finance and Investment Society; CANCELED due to rain
- Mon. April 8; Ecology 460; pull garlic mustard; base of Picnic Point; 36 volunteers
- Mon. April 8; Ecology 460; pull garlic mustard; base of Picnic Point; 36 volunteers
- Tues. April 9; Ecology 460; pull garlic mustard; base of Picnic Point; 23 volunteers
- Wed April 10; Ecology 460; 2 sections CANCELED due to weather
- Sat. April 13; Drop-in; pull garlic mustard and cut brush; Central Bill's Woods; 9 volunteers
- Sat. April 13; Pi Kappa Alpha; pull garlic mustard; base of Picnic Point; 10 volunteers
- Sun. April 14; morning and afternoon events CANCELED due to weather

- Tues. April 23; American Family; cut brush; Frautschi Point; 20 volunteers
- Tues. April 23; Terso Solutions; cut buckthorn; Frautschi Point; 10 volunteers
- Thurs. April 25; Army ROTC; CANCELED due to weather
- Sat. April 27; morning and afternoon events CANCELED due to weather
- Sun. April 28; Blackhawk Church; pull garlic mustard; West Bill's Woods; 27 volunteers
- Thurs. May 2; Clean Lakes Alliance-National Guardian Life; pull garlic mustard and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle; North and Central Bill's Woods; 18 volunteers
- Sat. May 4; Chancellors Scholars and Pi Lambda Phi; cut buckthorn; C. Bill's Woods; 15 volunteers
- Sun. May 5; Shaarei Shamayim Synagogue; cut buckthorn; Base of Picnic Point; 35 volunteers
- Sun. May 5; Friends of the Preserve; pull garlic mustard; Frautschi Point; 16 volunteers
- Fri. May 10; UW Career Exploration Center; pull garlic mustard and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle; Frautschi Point; 4 volunteers