



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – November 1, 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

The trees are changing colors and revealing their splendor. New and returning students are engaged and breathing life back into the campus landscape, and the Preserve staff (with the help of many volunteers) continue to care for these 300-acres of outdoor laboratory right here on campus. We also continue our work on the Preserve Strategic Plan, and we'll be sharing the first public draft with you at our November 1st meeting. Please take time to review the draft document and provide us with your critical analysis and comments. We want everyone to be fully engaged in this important planning process to ensure the future of the Preserve is managed in the best way possible. Preserve staff continue to advocate for the Preserve and we will continue to need your support as we move forward. The goal is to have the Strategic Plan completed by the end of 2019 so that we can start planning for the update of the 2006 Preserve Master Plan in 2020. Thanks again for all your continuing support and devotion to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

The beginning of a new semester translates into an increasing number of permits for class related projects and research. The Botany/Ecology/Forest & Wildlife Ecology 460 class projects represent the largest number of participants.

We have hired Tucker Sanborn, a student, as a part-time Natural Areas Assistant. Tucker was a Prairie Partner Intern this past summer and he is majoring in Conservation Biology and Philosophy.

Tracy Hames, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, spent several hours with Preserve staff discussing the Class of 1918 Marsh. Tracy has provided several public programs on the marsh and we felt it was important for the Preserve staff and Tracy to formally meet and exchange information and establish a working network. All felt their time was well invested.

Permits issued since September meeting:

- 2019-58 – BTNY460 – Effects of prairie restoration on soil characteristics
- 2019-57 – ECOL460 – Vertebrate populations in forested areas
- 2019-56 – Outdoor UW – National Outdoor Leadership School – Wilderness First Aid Course and Wilderness First Aid Responder
- 2019-55 – BTNY460 – Invasive species impacting species richness
- 2019-54 – ECOL460 – Impact of hiking trails on vegetative species
- 2019-53 – Graduate Research (Caruso & Bart) – Research on control of invasive *Epipactis helleborine* (Eurasian orchid)
- 2019-52 – BTNY460 – Distribution of invasive plants and insect populations
- 2019-51 – BTNY460 – Seed predator biodiversity and location disturbance
- 2019-50 – BTNY460 – Occurrence of buckthorn and surround species richness
- 2019-49 – BTNY 460 – Edge effect and invasive species
- 2019-47 - BTNY/FWE 402 Dendrology – Woody Plant ID and surveys
- 2019-46 – BTNY 130 – Plant ID
- 2019-46 – UW Herbarium-Zaborsky

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement design continues.
- Vet Med expansion is in design. We'll be sharing those draft project designs at an upcoming Preserve Committee meeting.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – is nearly complete except we are waiting on the installation of lighting in the parking lot. Lot 129 is now planted.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- The Muir Woods steps continue to degrade have been signed with alternate route options for a less steep path. A funding request for replacement has been submitted to the State.
- The Eagle Heights Gardens will be improving a terrace wall along the upper edge of the F.H. King garden space.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Porcelain berry – completed late monitoring sweeps of sections of Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, and Caretaker's Woods in search of this NR40 Prohibited vine.
- Picnic Point – placed barricades along the main path detouring pedestrians around a stormwater inundated portion of the path. Placed barricades closing the Picnic Point marsh path until water levels recede.
- Wally Bauman Woods – working with Preserve volunteer stewards Steve Sentoff and Glenn Teschendorf, completed invasive brush re-sprout control from Wally Bauman Woods east to Raymer's Cove gully.
- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Assessed performance of water bars
 - b. Coordinating with Good Oak to complete invasive brush removal across the remaining north slope thicket in fall/winter 2019-20 and proceed into the East Zone as resources allow.
- Big Woods – Brush mowed woody competition around young red oaks in former meadow peninsula along the northwest woods edge. Also, initiated invasive brush removal at the east end of the Big Woods extension, between the 100s apartments and Housing storage lot. Collaborating with Housing staff to chip and haul away woody debris.
- Frautschi Point – Rerouted gully trail segment around large red oak that toppled in storms. Mulched the worst muddy sections of the lakeshore trail with wood chips.
Planning phase one tree thinning to remove competing trees growing into canopy of white oak cohort around the "second oak" at the south end of the site. Toured site with WDNR Forest Ecologist Brad Hutnik to discuss management considerations.
- Updating and drafting prescribed burn plans for potential fall burn units at Willow Creek savanna, Eagle Heights Woods, and Biocore prairie.
- Collected seed in various locations to supplement seed purchases for project areas to be over seeded in winter 2019-20, including portions of Frautschi Point, Bill's Woods, Big Woods, and Willow Creek savanna.
- Seasonal staff performed daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Partnered for the first time with the “Parent and Family Program” during their Family Weekend (32 participants):
 - 1 P.M. – BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE, MEET AT THE ENTRANCE TO PICNIC POINT (NEXT TO THE KIOSK), 2003 UNIVERSITY BAY DRIVE.
Explore a restored prairie up-close [while collecting prairie seed], learn about urban coyote and fox research from Dr. David Drake, Professor of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Extension Wildlife Specialist, and experience in a new way the largest outdoor teaching and research facility on campus — the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Activity will last approx. 2 hours.

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers
- Volunteer events since September 23, 2019:
 1. September 22; Engineers for a Sustainable World; RAINED OUT
 2. September 29; Drop-in and Sierra Student Coalition; RAINED OUT
 3. October 5; Drop-in; Picnic Point Marsh trail; remove buckthorn; 2 volunteers
 4. October 10; GreenHouse; RAINED OUT
 5. October 12; St Paul’s Community Graduate Students and Young Professionals; Lot 60 prairie; collect seeds; 8 volunteers
 6. October 13; Phi Delta Theta and Society of Women Engineers; Bills Woods; chip trail and remove buckthorn; 21 volunteers
 7. October 19; Medlife; East Savanna tree line; remove woody invasive plants; 8 volunteers
 8. October 19; Family Weekend event; Biocore Prairie; collect seeds; 32 volunteers
 9. October 20; Drop-in (Alpha Omega Epsilon, Theta Tau, Friends of the Preserve, Biocore, Alpha Phi Omega); East Savanna tree line; remove woody invasive plants; 19 volunteers
 10. October 20; Women in Finance and Accounting; East Savanna tree line; remove woody invasive plants; 6 volunteers