



Friends OF THE
LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

P.O. Box 5534
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www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com

February 12, 2020

Field trips

Since our last report the Friends have sponsored 4 field trips. A full suite of upcoming field trips has been planned along with an event for Science Expeditions in April.

December 7, Birding Madison's Lakes, Quentin Yoerger (19 participants). This trip started at Lot 60 to view the birds in University Bay before moving on to several other sites along the Madison lakes. A total of 39 species were recorded.

December 22, Sentimental Journey, Doris Dubielzig and Paul Noeldner (26 participants). Doris gave a talk about the history of the Preserve, which was followed by snacks and birding at Fire Circle 2.

January 11, Climate Change in the Preserve, Dan Vimont (4 participants). After a spell of unusually warm conditions, the weather perversely decided to be wintry with mixed precipitation, holding down participation.

January 26, Green Dorm and Greenhouse, Tom Bryan (23 participants). We toured Leopold Residence Hall and learned about the connections between the Greenhouse Learning Community and the Preserve.

We have received comments that it is often hard to hear the leaders on our field trips. This is especially true when we have large groups, such as when students come as part of their class assignments. To address this, we would like to get a small amplifier that the leader could use on these walks. We would also provide guidance to our leaders to be mindful of disrupting other Preserve visitors.

Heritage Marker

We are working on a plan with Preserve staff to host the heritage marker in August or September. The Friends are willing to cover the cost of a secure post to hold the marker and sponsor coordinated events. Another possibility is that Eve Emshwiller (of the Botany Department and on our board) is considering applying for an Our Shared Future grant, which could include activities with her department and the Friends.

Spring Planting Event

The Friends have met with the Preserve staff to plan the 2020 Wildflower Planting event, which is scheduled for May 16. The site is in Frautschi Point Woods and has recently been cleared at a couple of drop-in work days.

Member Communication Survey

The survey (attached) was sent out to members in early January. We have gotten an excellent response rate (over 30%) and will be analyzing the data and working on our actions later this year.

Submitted by Steve Sentoff, President, shsentoff@gmail.com

Membership Survey of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

This survey aims to find out how the *Friends* of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve can satisfy your interests and expectations. The *Friends* Board is always working to improve communication with you, the *Friends* valued membership. Please use a pen to record your responses.

1. About our members

When did you join the *Friends* of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve?

- 2001-2005 2006-2010 2011-2015 2016-Present

How often did you visit the Preserve in the last 12 months?

- 0 1-2 times 3-10 times 11 and more times

What do you do in the Preserve? _____

Which areas of the Preserve do you visit most? _____

What draws you to the *Friends* of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve? _____

2. How can we better engage members and the community to connect with the Preserve?

Field trips and Nature Outings. The *Friends* sponsor 25 field trips/year, ranging from geology, fungi, trees, birds, prairies, wetlands to climate change, and attracting over 500 people from the community and students. Typically, a quarter or less of the participants are members.

Have you attended one or more field trip during the past 3 years?

- Yes No Intend to in the future

What may have kept you from attending? _____

What other topics would interest you? _____

New Activities and Events. What other kinds of events or activities would you be likely to attend? Mark all that apply.

- Picnic Field trip to another site
 Guest speaker, indoors Environmental breakfast cafe
 Wellness walking group What other topics? _____

Outreach. The *Friends* partner with other organizations with exhibits on behalf of the Preserve. In addition, we would like to explore opportunities to assist the many diverse groups in the Madison community to experience the Preserve, including people with limited mobility.

What opportunities or events would you suggest to engage more diverse groups?

Annual meeting. This is an event for meeting up with other *Friends*, hear a keynote speaker, learn what's new in the Preserve, elect new Board officers.

Have you attended one or more Annual Meetings during the past 3 years?

- Yes No Intend to attend in the future

What makes you want to come? _____

If not you don't attend, what keeps you away? _____

Is there a particular topic you would like to hear about? _____

3. If you are considering more involvement, what area(s) might interest you?

Mark your preferences in the list below

- Restoration (physical work in restoration and invasive species control)
- Citizen science (Bluebird Trail, Purple Martin House, water quality monitoring)
- Education and outreach (helping with field trips or exhibits)
- Survey of plants in restoration areas
- Communication (newsletter, blog contributions, photo sharing)
- Board of the *Friends*
- Other

Please contact Steve Sentoff with your interest (shsentoff@gmail.com)

Or provide your contact information here: _____

4. How should the *Friends* support the Preserve through our memberships financial contributions?

All of the *Friends* expenditures benefit the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve directly or indirectly.

What should we add to the list below for providing financial support? _____

- ✓ Prairie Partners Internships
- ✓ Spring planting festival
- ✓ Citizen Science projects expenses (*equipment for monitoring of bats, birds and water quality*)
- ✓ Restoration projects (*Eagle Heights Woods*)
- ✓ Stewardship fund of the Preserve

5. How do you access information about the *Friends* of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve?

Friends website at <https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com>.

This website informs about field trips and events, the *Friends* citizen science projects, blogs on people stories and events, nature sightings in the Preserve, research and environmental science pages prepared by members for members, online newsletter, and more.

Do you use the *Friends* website? Yes No

What is effective on this website? _____

What is missing or can it be improved? _____

***Friends* Newsletter, Preserve!**

What do you like about the *Friends*' newsletter? _____

How can it be improved? _____

***Friends* email.** How do you assess the frequency of mailings?

About right Too many

What other ways of communicating do you suggest? _____

6. Are there particular issues related to the Preserve for which you would like the *Friends* of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to advocate?

7. Is there anything else you would like us to know? _____

8. Can you share with us your favorite moment or experience in the Preserve? _____

Thank you for completing this survey.

