



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – December 18, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Another month has passed as we all continue to manage during these unprecedented times. I want to thank the Preserve staff and all of you on the Committee for your continued support and helping us all keep the Preserve open and actively used by our many stakeholders. The Preserve has become a well-used haven for many people looking for respite and wellness in these difficult times. It continues to support the notion that natural areas and outdoor spaces being extremely important not only on campus but in our overall community.

As I've noted in the past, we continue to work on the Preserve Master Plan Update administrative process to solicit for a consultant team to assist with this important project. We hope to get that team on board in early 2021 and work over the spring semester to get going on the project with some data gathering and public input sessions. We are thankful for the support from the Friends that will help fund this project along with our Stewardship Account gift funds. Its great to see everyone rally around the Preserve and support its long-term care and management.

I continue to hear great things about our Strategic Plan on campus and how important the Preserve is our students, faculty and staff who were present on campus this past fall. We know field research was able to continue under the current pandemic restrictions and that land management never stops, even during a pandemic. Thank you, thank you, thank you... for all that you do for the Preserve!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting in November 2020:

- 2020-35 – Geocache – Raymer's Cove - Soley
- 2020-34 – Outdoors UW -Webb -Tours
- 2020-33 – Seed Collection – City of Madison
- 2020-32 – Prescribed Fire Monitoring - Lowney
- 2020-31 – Navy ROTC
- 2020-30 – CALS – Byran - Agroecology project
- 2020-29 – Undergraduate Research - Fischer
- 2020-28 – Graduate Research – Jordan -Climate Change impacts on conifers

Staff has been busy reviewing work and activities of the previous season and looking ahead to next year in crafting a work plan for 2021. Along with the ever-increasing land management opportunities, emphasis will be placed on addressing strategic plan priorities and supporting the updating of the Preserve Master Plan. Bryn and I have begun meeting with FP&M Communications staff to develop a draft communications plan, as outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Expect to receive our traditional annual end-of-year appeal letter. We appreciate your consideration in giving to the Preserve as your resources allow.

In an effort to streamline financial processes, the Preserve budget will move its fiscal year to coincide with that of the overall university, that being July 1 to June 30. You will review a "carryover" budget which will take us from March 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

I have completed the paperwork for the purchase of a new Kubota utility vehicle to replace a model which is unreliable.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Gymnasium/Natorium Replacement design is nearly complete. The building removal is underway with site clearing work starting earlier this past September. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going field operations, this project has prompted construction of a temporary shed (40'x 70') at the former handball wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (late 2022 or early 2023).
- The Vet Med expansion design is also nearly complete and will start construction likely in spring 2021.
- A Landscape Master Plan for the Willow Creek area has begun. The creek and approximately 20 feet on both sides will be studied for crossings, use and revegetation along with proposed development west of the creek and south of Observatory Drive (Biotron site, Grounds area, etc.).

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- We are preparing the paperwork for hiring a consultant for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan update process. Please stay tuned for more information as we move that planning process forward in the spring semester.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Routine site maintenance, reporting use issues and mitigating/repairing as needed.
- Biocore prairie – conducted prescribed burn with Quercus Land Stewardship Services on November 12. (Quercus contractor-\$1,537)
- Other prescribed fire opportunities have been elusive due to weather (wind direction, smoke dispersal considerations) damp fall fuel conditions, and short days.
- Frautschi Point - volunteer stewards continue to remove regrowth of invasive brush in areas cleared in previous years along across the entire unit.
- Preserve staff continue brush control across multiple locations – Picnic Point and Willow Creek savanna.
- Compiled seed order to over seed project areas at Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, Bill's Woods, Lot 60 swale and Willow Creek savanna.
- Preserve staff performed targeted seed collection to supplement purchased seed.
- Preserve staff drafted updates to the FY21-22 Work Plan.
- Planning winter brush pile burns and continued brush control as weather permits.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

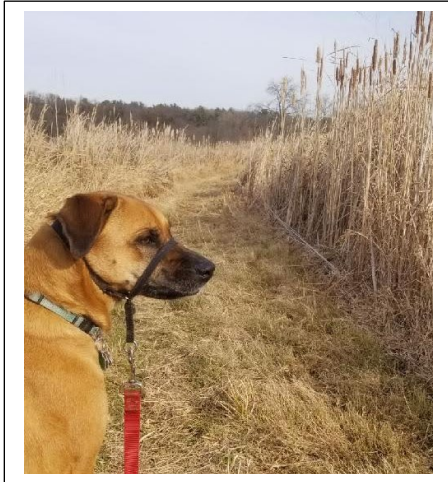
Outreach activities:

- Thanksgiving card
- Annual Appeal
- #GivingTuesday (Dec. 1, 2020)
- Restarted planning for 2021 Master Naturalist volunteer training course with Preserve and UW Arboretum
- Preserve Interactive Map (Flash map) no longer supported by browsers after December 2020.

Volunteer activities (since July 1):

- Suzy Will-Wolf crunching Eagle Heights Woods vegetation survey data
- Ann Burgess assisting with annual report mailing to donors
- Volunteer Stewards continue to work in the Preserve under remote supervision

- 4 volunteers removing invasive plants (Frautschi Point resprouts) - **643.75** hours cutting and pulling herbaceous and woody invasive plants.
- 3 volunteers monitoring trails - **55.75** hours walking trails, picking up trash, and reporting on conditions.



Honorary Volunteer Steward Touie often joins Ginny Jackson on her trail monitoring walks, and Stephen Sentoff shows off how he transports his work tools to the Preserve.
