



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – February 5, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Thank you all for continuing to support the many efforts of our Preserve staff as we continue to provide land care and management. It's been an interesting year as we come up on the one-year anniversary of the everchanging pandemic requirements. Through and through, our staff have managed to stay well and keep the Preserve open and available for the increased use we've seen, providing a respite from the pandemic and gain the benefits of being outside when possible.

I would note that we continue to plan for springtime activities in the Preserve (plantings, seeding, garlic mustard and other invasive species control, but we of course can't guarantee that these activities will be approved until we understand what the pandemic environment will be like a week or so before the activities are to occur. We'll be monitoring the universities requirements, along with all CDC and PHMDC guidelines as we move forward and will keep everyone posted as to the viability of any types of gatherings or events happening on the land in the Preserve. Until then, please make sure you continue to wear your face coverings at all times when on campus and in the Preserve. Maintain your physical distance from those not in your household and for those who work or study on campus, keep up with your weekly testing protocols.

Stay well and enjoy the Preserve's winter wonderland!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting in December 2020:

- 2020-38 – Geocache – Barak-Earthcache, Narrows
- 2020-37 – Geocache – Soley-Explore the Preserve, Eagle Heights Gardens
- 2020-36 – Geocache – Soley-Walk in the Woods, Frautschi Point

View geocache locations within the Preserve at www.geocaching.com.

Thanks to all who have responded to the annual appeal and provided supported to the Preserve with a charitable gift to the Wisconsin Foundation & Alumni Association! During the month of December and early January we received 65 gifts totaling \$61,717. Gifts ranged from \$20,000 to a monthly donation through UW payroll deduction of \$2.50. **Gifts of all sizes are critical** in supporting our land restoration and programing efforts which is supported through gift funds.

Staff has been busy looking ahead to the upcoming spring season and preparing to manage the land and facilitate programs during the conditions and special requirements resulting from COVID-19. Staff is meeting with Friends representative to discuss program/event options. We are looking ahead to hiring two student workers for garlic mustard removal and a summer/seasonal temporary worker in June.

A review of Geocache permits, from its inception, has taken place and all published geocaches are following our permit requirements. For a listing of active geocaches within the Preserve visit www.geocaching.com.

Preserve staff took possession of a new Kubota utility vehicle which will replace a 13-year old model which had numerous operational issues. Gift funds made this \$17,925 purchase possible providing increased safety and work efficiency.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium demolition is nearly complete.
To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project has provided a temporary metal shed (40'x 70') that has been installed at the former bounding wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (in late 2022 or early 2023).
- The Vet Med expansion design is nearly complete and will start construction likely in late spring 2021.
- A Master Plan for the Willow Creek area has begun and is on hold for now until decisions are made about the Biotron Lab and site surrounding that building.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is considering creating a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- Staff continue to develop and submit the paperwork for hiring a consultanting firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan update process.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Frautschi Point – Received MFD burn permit following holiday break and completed brush pile burns east of the parking lot and around the Second Oak project site. Volunteer stewards have continued to remove invasive brush regrowth in areas cleared in previous years across the entire unit.
- Eagle Heights Woods – removed downed storm-damaged trees from trails.
- Preserve staff continue brush control across multiple locations – Picnic Point and Willow Creek savanna.
- Received seed orders and compiled seed mixes for project areas at Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, Bill's Woods, Lot 60 swale and Willow Creek savanna. Sowed seed ahead of snow events.
- Assessing tree removal needs (identified in the Preserve 2020 Work Plan) along the southern edge of Second Point Woods bordering Biocore prairie.
- New Kubota utility vehicle has been purchased and put into service for Preserve staff.
- Reviewing prescribed burn plans for 2021 and compiling info for Natural Lawn Burn Permit application.
- Evaluating potential hiring needs for the 2021 field season.

Routine site maintenance, reporting use issues and mitigating/repairing as needed

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Updates/edits to website including removing references to Preserve interactive map
- "Future of the Marsh" recording for Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip
- Planning for Preserve/Arboretum Wisconsin Master Naturalist Class planned for Oct 1-3 and Oct 22-24
- Working with FP&M Marketing and Communications Team on Preserve Communications Plan
- Working with staff to develop a tour script for a general Preserve tour
- Working with staff to organize Preserve news clippings

Volunteer activities:

- Request to host a second WDNR Snapshot Wisconsin wildlife camera in the Preserve; graduate student volunteer has completed DNR training and will be monitoring both cameras in the Preserve

- Started planning for the Friends spring wildflower planting event

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