

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – May 20, 2022

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Gary Brown, Director

... and so now its “Summer” with 91 degrees today and HUMID.. on May 12! What the heck!?! Indeed our climate is changing but would sure be nice to have a few weeks of Spring. Its amazing how the weather impact not only our personal but professional lives and how the Preserve responds in vegetation management. Too wet to burn and now too green and humid to burn. I’m sure by now our garlic mustard invasives are popping up all over with these warm and wet days over the past couple of weeks. Thank you all for continuing your participation in the Preserve Master Plan update process and for those that attended our public meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Your participation and excellent comments are very helpful as we continue work on the draft recommendations and final draft in the fall semester.

I do want to let you all know that I’ll be retiring on Feb. 1, 2023. As I have 8 months of sabbatical, my last day on campus will be Friday, June 3, 2022. An interim director for the Preserve has yet to be named so please stay tuned. My time as director over the past many years has been an amazing experience and feel I’ll be leaving the Preserve in good hands and in a good place with our 2020 Strategic Plan and our on-going Master Plan update. I’m also very please we are working hard on funding the Preserve Outreach Center and stewarding our major donors. For now, I bid you all the best of luck in helping move the Preserve forward and keeping the Preserve available for future generations to come. Thanks again for all your excellent support over the years!

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Assistant Director

**Permits issued since our last meeting on April 22, 2022:**

- 2022-27 – RecWell Summer Camp - August
- 2022-26 – RecWell Summer Camp - July
- 2022-25 – Biocore Adventure Club - McGee

In April 2019, Joy Zedler gifted the Preserve with 100 copies of a children’s book she had written, *Sandhill Crane Siblings Learn to Find Food*, to be sold or given away. We used the book as an incentive for our end-of-year annual campaign in 2019 and planned to share with families the following spring at Eagle Heights Apartments (EHA). The pandemic quickly changed our plans. Finally, three years later, we have partnered with staff from the EHA community center and held an event and distributed books to approximately 36 families. See Bryn ‘s report for additional details. A wonderful outreach event with our Preserve neighbors. Thanks to Cole Koffron for assisting with the program.

Preserve staff would like to acknowledge and thank our partners with Eagle Heights Apartments for the continuous support and collaboration. It is joyful to work with folks such as Andrew Werner, Assistant Director of Resident Support Services and Kevin Weber, Apt Fac Ass Dir -Pro & Safety. It is amazing how much more we can get done by working together. Kelly Ignatoski, member of the Preserve Committee, is the Director of University Apartments.

Removal of declining ash along the Picnic Point path will continue after May 23.

Student staff are working part-time on garlic mustard removal. Starting May 23, they will be joining us full-time during the summer.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

### **Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- The Natatorium project is under construction.  
To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project a temporary shed (40'x 70') has been installed at the handball wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (2022 or 2023).
- Vet Med is under construction.
- A study of creating a bridge across the lake side of Limnology Building is complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the path south of the building and into the parking lot. This project is being proposed for the 2023-2025 budget and design will begin in 2022.

### **Capital Projects within the Preserve:**

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss further in the Master Plan section of today's meeting.
- A memorial bench will be installed in Tent Colony Woods in spring of 2022.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve Master Plan – continued to meet and provide input to plan designs and responses to stakeholder comments.
- Planning onboarding for 2022 seasonal staff (3 new student workers and one continuing) and preparing for field season.
- Planning 2022 Prairie Partners internship work.
- Provided support to LA581 Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation course, assisting with live fire training exercises at UW Arboretum. Incorporated student volunteers on student burns.
- Completed prescribed burns of Biocore prairie and portions of the Frautschi Point shoreline.
- Monitoring spring emergence and management needs in various project areas.
- Performed fig buttercup removal in portions of Eagle Heights Apartments adjacent to Eagle Heights Woods.
- Began initial garlic mustard monitoring and removal.
- Sowed remaining seed (intended for a burn unit that didn't happen) along sections of the Picnic Point path where ash trees have been felled.
- Participated in ad-hoc committee on Temin Lakeshore Path lighting inquiry.
- Performed trail maintenance in Bill's Woods.
- Daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

## **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

### **Outreach activities:**

- Promoted Master Plan meeting and continued reaching out to individuals for input
- Joy Zedler Crane book giveaway and crane outreach event to Eagle Heights Apartments children and families; supported by 7 volunteers and 1 Housing staff person; engaged at least 36 families with show and touch table, origami crane making, coloring table and nature scavenger sheets

**Volunteer activities:**

April 23

- 9-Noon; Drop-in volunteers, Society of Women Engineers, Alpha Phi Omega, WI Competitive Cheer Club; 15 volunteers; Eagle Heights Gardens edge; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle
- 1-3pm; Aspiring Physician Assistant Association (APAA); 3 volunteers; Eagle Heights Gardens edge; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle

April 24

- 10-Noon; Alpha Phi Omega; 17 volunteers; Eagle Heights Gardens edge; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle
- 1-3pm; Medlife, APAA; 16 volunteers; Eagle Heights Gardens edge; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle

May 1

- 1-3:30pm; Friends of the Preserve garlic mustard pull; 10 volunteers; Frautschi Point and Lake Mendota Dr edge; pull garlic mustard and cut buckthorn

**Upcoming volunteer events:**

- May 21, 9-11:30am; Friends planting event at Picnic Point



*Preserve and University Apartments staff with volunteers and participating family at the Sandhill Crane book distribution, May 7, 2022.*