

10/19/22

Preserve Committee Meeting

Friends Report

Will Vuyk & Anne Pearce

Since our last meeting in May the Friends have continued to host field trips in the Preserve on topics ranging from the Class of 1918 Marsh to insect superpowers. We were especially excited to host the Preserve staff on their own "Preserving the Preserve" field trip on June 26th. Board member Tom Zinnen also organized two special Wednesday Nite @ The Lab talks. Friends President Will Vuyk gave a presentation titled "Snakes Around Town" about snakes in the Madison Area, and Preserve staff gave a talk about the Preserve and the restoration project at Willow Creek Savannah.

Since the start of fall semester the Friends Board has resumed in-person meetings in Steenbock Library Room 240 with a hybrid zoom option. Our meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month except for August and January, from 7:00-9:00pm. We kicked off our first in-person meeting with a social at Allen Centennial Garden organized by our board member, and Garden Director, Reba Luiken.

We have also seen amazing student attendance at our recent fall field trips, with numbers consistently ranging between 30-60 people. At Marie Trest's "Fascinating Fall Fungi" trip attendance may have exceeded 60. We also recently hosted an amazing field trip led by two arachnid researchers from the Sharma Lab, Guilherme Gainett and Siddharth Kulkarni, who have an interest in starting a community-based bioblitz survey of arachnid species in the Preserve. The Friends are actively working with Guilherme and Siddharth to make this, and a resulting field guide to "Arachnids of the Preserve" possible, starting 2023.

As we move into late fall and winter the Friends, in addition to our usual slate of field trips, have a number of scheduled literature and nature writing themed events under the umbrella of our "It's in Our Nature" Poetry Open Mic series. The first of these is a field trip this coming Sunday called "Poetry in the Preserve."

Please see our website (<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com>) and Spring Newsletter for further information:

https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/uploads/2/6/9/3/26931781/2022-spring-newsletter_web.pdf

Upcoming Friends Field Trips:

October 23

Poetry in the Preserve: A walk down the "It's In Our Nature" audio trail. *Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

In the beauty of autumn, a poem hides under every leaf and behind every snowflake. Experience poems collected from our annual "It's In Our Nature" open mic event as Friends President Will Vuyk and Friends of Urban Nature (FUN) ambassador Paul Noeldner join you on this literary excursion. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: **Will**

Vuyk (wvuyk@wisc.edu) and **Paul Noeldner** (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

November 13

Geologic History of the Preserve and Madison Lakes. *Sunday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

In collaboration with the Badger Talks program, Geologist Dave Mickelson will picture for us the glaciers that were here 25,000 years ago and their effects on the landscape. Walk with him from the Lake Mendota shore at Raymer's Cove up to the vistas in Eagle Heights woods. **Carpool to** and meet at Raymer's Cove parking lot, 2900 Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: **David Mickelson** (davem@geology.wisc.edu, 608-338-7063).

November 27

Fun Fall Birding. *Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join enthused birder Chuck Henrikson and Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner along with other experienced and beginning birders for a free, family-friendly, guided walk. University Bay is an important rest stop for waterfowl during fall migration. We will look for large white tundra swans, beautiful buffleheads, comical chattering coots, diving grebes and mergansers, and common loons making their wild calls. The large natural areas of the Preserve also host year-round residents like black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, barred owls, and winter visitors like tree sparrows and juncos that move south to Wisconsin for the season. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Chuck Henrikson (ckhenrikson@gmail.com) and Paul Noeldner (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).