



The Kubala Washatko Architects vision of a new entrance to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Preserve Master Plan and Outreach Center Planning Nears Completion

By Laura Wyatt, Preserve Interim Director

Since emerging from the pandemic, Preserve staff and stakeholders have been focused on updating the 2006 Master Plan and initiating an advanced plan for a Preserve Outreach Center. It has been 16 years since the last Master Plan, and we are nearing completion on the new plan to guide land restoration and facility development for the next 10+ years. As we share the final draft with UW administration, **we also invite stakeholders to [comment on the final draft Master Plan](#) until July 17, 2023.**

Both the 2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan and the 2015 Campus Master Plan include language outlining a [Preserve Outreach Center](#), which would provide a single home for Preserve staff and a common meeting area for the hundreds of students and volunteers that utilize and manage this 300-acre outdoor learning laboratory. This new Outreach Center was intended to serve as a meeting space for students gathering before an outdoor class; provide public restrooms and a water bottle filling station; include a multi-purpose/community meeting room; and furnish an interpretative space to share information about the extraordinary work happening in the Preserve every day and celebrate the cultural richness of the Preserve's history.

Thanks to a generous million-dollar gift from W. Jerome Frautschi, the Kubala Washatko Architects were hired to design a sustainable structure that honors the history and mission of the Preserve. The initial design is pictured above and the plan received enthusiastic support at a [public meeting in March \(scroll to bottom of webpage at this link\)](#).

The proposed site for the 10,000-square foot Outreach Center is southwest of the historic stone gate on land that is already disturbed, with the existing parking lot, roadway, and ped/bike path...all which will be relocated within the previously disturbed site. The project avoids known archaeological sites and would provide a sustainable home for the Preserve, integrated beautifully into its naturalized setting. In addition, the building would provide an accessible upper-level deck and allow views into the Preserve to the north, across University Bay to the southeast, and toward the Class of 1918 Marsh to the south.

Once completed the Outreach Center would also showcase advanced sustainable design and building principles. Elements such as daylighting, geothermal heating and cooling, an extensive green roof, and solar photovoltaics would provide net-positive energy to the campus. Together, such measures would meet requirements for the [Living Building Challenge](#), a rigorous and advanced third-party sustainability certification program.

The initial plans for the building are being reviewed by university administration and Mr. Frautschi. If approved the next step is construction plans and fundraising. The Preserve Outreach Center and all Preserve restoration and development will be gift funded.

To learn more about how you can help support this exciting new building, see the [Preserve website](#) or contact Laura Wyatt at laura.wyatt@wisc.edu.

Volunteers and Donors Support the Preserve

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

In this issue we recognize the volunteers and donors who give their time and resources to support the mission of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Volunteers contribute to the Preserve as individuals, as members of campus and community groups, and as students in service learning classes. In 2022, 530 volunteers gave 2,424 hours of their time to the Preserve. 78% of our volunteers are UW students, faculty and staff!

In 2022, volunteers:

- Cut 11 acres of invasive brush
- Pulled invasive herbaceous plants like garlic mustard, dames rocket, and hedge parsley across 150 acres
- Planted over 175 native plants
- Collected seeds from 42 plant species
- Sowed seed over a half-acre of savanna/woodland edge

While UW-Madison supports the Preserve's staff and administrative expenses, private funds support land restoration efforts, our interns, and volunteer programming, representing more than 35% of the Preserve's annual budget. In 2022 donors gave 263 gifts totaling \$489,810! Of that, \$412,845 was designated by donors for specific Preserve approved projects, leaving \$79,965 available for Preserve restorations and programs.

Private gifts are vital to the Preserve's ongoing success by supporting:

- Hands-on student learning through paid internships
- Ecological restoration efforts including invasive plant control, prescribed fires, seeds, and plants
- The purchase of tools, gloves, and volunteer refreshments
- Capital projects to enhance the enjoyment of the Preserve for all visitors

We also need to call out the contributions of the [Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve](#), a volunteer-run organization that has supported the Preserve since 2001. The Friends organize a series of excellent field trips on a variety of topics plus an annual nature writing open mic event *It's in Our Nature* and "exploration stations" for the 2022 UW-Madison Science Expeditions. They also coordinate several citizen science projects including a Bluebird Trail, a Purple Martin house, and water quality monitoring in University Bay with the Clean Lakes Alliance. In 2022 the Friends engaged 660 people. The Friends also contribute financially to the Preserve for the Prairie Partners internship program (\$7,758), a matching gift for the Day of the Badger (\$4,000), and for the purchase of plants for an annual Friends planting day (\$1,200).

If you want to experience the Preserve through volunteering, visit our [events calendar](#) for volunteer event dates. You can also become a Wisconsin Master Naturalist (see page 7).

If you would like to support the Preserve financially, gifts can be made through the University of Wisconsin Foundation website at supportuw.org/giveto/lakeshore.



Note: If you volunteered or made a gift in 2022 and your name was left out of this issue, please accept our apology and let us know by contacting bryn.scriver@wisc.edu.

Volunteers and Donors by the numbers...

VOLUNTEERS
530

% STUDENTS
78

SERVICE HOURS
2,424

GROUPS
40

GIFTS
263

AMOUNT IN GIFTS
\$489,810

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Actuarial Club
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THANK YOU!

Dormant Land, Active Management

By Adam Gundlach, Preserve Field Projects Coordinator

Most people expect our staff and interns to be busy working on the land during the growing season, but did you know that winter provides great opportunities for certain land management activities? Here's a glimpse of work that continued through last winter.

Prescribed burns – In early December 2022, just before the first substantial snowfall, Preserve staff with support from the crew at Quercus Land Stewardship Services completed prescribed burns at the Lot 60 swale prairie, University Bay Drive swale prairie, and a portion of Biocore Prairie. As climate patterns change, there will likely be increasing opportunities to conduct burns during winter months without snow cover.



Ignition operations move toward completion, as strips of head fire are set by Quercus Land Stewardship staff at the Lot 60 prairie planting.

Brush pile burns – With snow on the ground, fire is used to manage accumulated invasive brush that was cut and piled by volunteers and staff. If a pile is located near a utility road it can be chipped and hauled away, but for isolated piles burning allows us to save time and resources. The burn scars left on the ground are seeded with a mix of grasses and forbs to ensure those sites heal quickly, often forming dense pockets of plant diversity compared to the surrounding vegetation.



Lambda Phi Epsilon volunteers construct a solid brush pile for later burning.



Piles burning down on a beautiful February day in Bill's Woods.



Making a rare appearance, the sun sinks below the Big Oak in Frautschi Point at the end of a day spent burning brush piles.

Hazard tree removal – Boley Tree Service removed hazard ash trees in Muir Woods near the Social Sciences building, along the Temin Lakeshore Path, and along the main Picnic Point path. The UW Grounds arborist crew addressed declining ash trees along the utility road adjacent to the Picnic Point burial mounds group. Frozen ground provides protection for sites where machinery needs to operate off-trail. Unfortunately, frost never developed to any depth making it difficult to schedule this kind of work, especially in sensitive sites where ground disturbance is not tolerable.



UW Grounds staff work to safely fell hazard ash trees adjacent to the Picnic Point burial mounds group, while avoiding ground disturbance in this sacred site.

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Continued on page 4

Continued on page 4

Brush removal and woody resprout control – The persistence of the Preserve's student crew has resulted in continued progress on clearing resprouting invasive brush as well as clearing new swaths into existing thickets. Since fall the crew has covered approximately 12 acres across Bill's Woods, Picnic Point, Lot 60 swale prairie, and Willow Creek savanna.



Student Natural Area Assistant Nick Wand-schneider carefully dabs herbicide onto the cut stump of an invasive honeysuckle shrub.

Seeding – Preserve staff and volunteers spend a fair amount of time in summer and fall collecting native seed. The seed collected in the Preserve is supplemented with seed purchased from local native plant nurseries. Seed is sown across a range of Preserve sites including to hold the soil in shady woodlands recently cleared of invasive brush and to increase biodiversity in established prairie plantings. Prescribed fire conducted prior to seeding is one of the best site preparations.

Beavers!



Humans aren't the only participants in land management. Some of the Preserve's residents perform quite a bit of management work too. Beavers were busy this winter along the banks of Willow Creek.

Parting thoughts



A charred elm snag adorned with snow shows signs of previous fire management. If only all management decisions were this black and white.

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Jace Addy
Lisa Adkins
Rose Adler-Rephan
Sausann Al-Jawhar
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Erin Anderson
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Dillon Aronoff
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Continued on page 6

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Maria Vocke
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Continued on page 5

Preserve Brings on Four New Student Assistants

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

As the Spring 2023 semester ended we said goodbye to 4 seasoned Natural Area Assistants who over the course of a year or more came to know the Preserve, it's woods, wetlands, and prairie, and the tools and vehicles needed to maintain this outdoor classroom. Two interns, Max Derleth and Ben Kotte, graduated from the UW and two interns, Lily Shayegan and Nick Wandschneider, went on to explore other learning opportunities.

In their place we hired 4 new fresh faces to work in the Preserve. For the last several weeks the interns have had to learn fast as we introduced them to the far corners of the 300-acre Preserve and started training them on how to safely use the tools of the trade.

Their on-boarding involved a lot of plant identification and pointing out maintenance needs. After just a few days the interns were already well acquainted with invasive garlic mustard and dame's rocket plants.



Soleil Bieniek

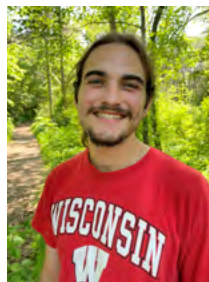
Soleil is a 4th year student studying Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies with a certificate in American Indian studies. She applied for the position because she wanted hands-on experience in habitat restoration. She is specifically interested in wildlife management and how ecological restoration practices help different species of wildlife. Her favorite spot in the Preserve is on the beach at Raymer's Cove.



César García

César hails from San Antonio, Texas. He is a 4th year student in Botany with a special interest in mycology. His favorite fungi find in the Preserve so far is Honeycomb Coral Slime Mold (*Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa*). He said he applied for the position because "it was the perfect opportunity to get out and get in touch with our natural flora and establish a connection with a wide

range of plant populations over the growing season."



Parker Gimbel

Parker is studying Environmental Science and will be a junior this Fall. Originally from Knoxville, TN, he moved with his family to Milwaukee in the 8th grade. Parker learned about the position while cutting invasive brush at a drop-in volunteer event in Frautschi Point Woods. He was looking for an internship to give him field experience in ecological restoration. Parker's favorite part of the job so far is doing early morning checks/clean-up at the Picnic Point fire circles because, "it's still cool out and so quiet."



Ana Michaelson

Ana just finished her sophomore year and is double majoring in Conservation Biology and Life Sciences Communication. She is from Wauwatosa, WI. She wanted to be a Preserve Natural Area Assistant to gain hands-on experience working in the environmental restoration field. In particular she wants to improve her plant identification skills. So far, her favorite activity has been to join Biocore Lab Manager Seth McGee to monitor the Purple Martin house. They counted 76 eggs!

If you see our Natural Area Assistants out in the Preserve feel free to say, "Hi!" and thank them for their hard work!

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Monica Sentoff

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Bryn Scriver and her continuing contributions – Monica Sentoff

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Marjorie & Timothy Dwyer

Continued on page 8

The Fox and the Hound...and the Human and the Coyote

By Jeff Kirchman, UWPD University Natural Areas Liaison Officer

This spring, a Lakeshore Nature Preserve visitor recently reported what seemed like an unusual encounter with a couple of coyotes. In the Preserve and through the campus area, I see coyotes (and red foxes) regularly; they usually give me a wide berth. In this case, however, the coyotes approached him and his dog, howled, and followed at a distance as they left the area. The behavior wasn't necessarily aggressive, but I reached out to Dr. David Drake of the University's Urban Canid Project to better understand the encounter.

According to Dr. Drake, "coyotes are in their breeding season in spring and there was likely a den in the vicinity of where the encounter occurred that the coyotes were protective about...and the fact that a dog was present probably caused the coyotes to be a bit more vigilant than they may have been had a dog not been present." Dr. Drake felt the reported behavior was not unusual and Preserve visitors should not be alarmed by it but should be aware of what actions can be taken to promote positive co-existence between humans and coyotes.

Prompted by my contact with Dr. Drake, I visited the Urban Canid Project website. It offered great advice on [these types of interactions](#).

The site provides four important tips:

Don't Feed Them

When wild animals learn humans provide free and readily available food, they begin to lose their natural fears and human-coyote encounters can increase. Keep pet food indoors and properly store trash to keep any wild animals from turning to humans for food. While birdseed is not a favorite of foxes and coyotes, the rodents that enjoy fallen birdfeeder seeds sure are.

Monitor Pets

Always watch your pets outdoors and keep them on a leash, especially if you're aware of coyotes in the area (Reminder: Pets are required to be leashed on all university lands, including the Preserve). When wild urban canids are breeding and having pups, they can view domestic canids (like Fido and Fifi) as threats and they may become more territorial and aggressive.



Haze Them

It is suggested that you haze every coyote you see every time! Hazing a coyote means scaring it away from an area, therefore reinforcing an animal's fear of humans. To haze a coyote, use techniques like making yourself big (arms raised), yelling, clapping, and throwing objects in their direction. This will help maintain the animals' natural fears and encourage them to avoid human contact. There are exceptions to hazing an animal and Dr. Drake and friends have put together a helpful [video](#) to demonstrate how and when hazing is effective.

Respect Them

Foxes and coyotes are remarkably adaptable to urban life and are here to stay. Mutual respect will promote peaceful coexistence. It is a treat to see coyotes and red foxes in Madison and on the UW campus, but observe them from a safe distance and make sure to keep your dog leashed and under control.

If you have an encounter with a fox or coyote in Madison, Dr. Drake and his team want to know about it. You can report your sighting with the iNaturalist app or [website](#). Doing so helps further the Urban Canid Project's mission to investigate the way canids are living in Madison and how we can coexist with these wild neighbors.

You can contact Officer Kirchman at jkirchman@wisc.edu, 608-264-2677

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Andy Callahan
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Kalley Carlson
Shannon Carnahan
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Continued on page 7

Become a Master Naturalist!

In 2023 the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the UW Arboretum will co-pilot a hybrid Master Naturalist training with an anticipated start date of September 5. Past trainings required 40 hours of in-person training. The hybrid course will involve asynchronous learning opportunities, interspersed with Zoom discussions, and 1 ½ days in the field, split between the 2 campus natural areas.

More information, including exact dates, will be updated on the [Master Naturalist training page](#) as it is developed. Registration will open on August 1, 2023.

The Master Naturalist program (supported through the UW-Madison Division of Extension) promotes awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the natural environment by developing a network of well-informed volunteers dedicated to conservation service within their communities.

Contact the Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator at bryn.scriver@wisc.edu if you have questions.



Bryn Scriver

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Continued on page 8

Environmental Writing and Place: Students Create Self-guided Campus Walking Tour

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator and Noreen McAuliffe, 2022 Student Engagement Grant Awardee

Noreen McAuliffe, a lecturer in the English Department and an Academic Program Specialist in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, was awarded a Lakeshore Nature Preserve [Student Engagement Grant](#) to support student learning in her Fall 2022 environmental studies course: Environmental Writing and Place. This capstone course allowed students to learn and practice the techniques of research and writing in the environmental humanities.

Inspired by a tour at Princeton University that showcased stories that often go untold (e.g., Women at Princeton) and by the Preserve's own [Audio Trail](#), McAuliffe led students in a final class project to create a self-guided audio walking tour featuring narratives of campus environmental sites. Students re-envisioned what constituted a "significant" place through their research and creative practice. The goal of the audio tour project was to contribute to a more inclusive account of the history of

environmentalism and environmental sciences at UW-Madison.

The tour, [Restoring Narratives at UW: An Environmental Lens](#), published on the Guidigo app, features 13 GPS-enabled stops around campus. It can be taken in-person or remotely through photos and audio.

From the institution of Earth Day and natural wonders like Lake Mendota, to influential figures like Aldo Leopold and John Muir, come join us as we explore the deeper ideas of UW-Madison's environmental spaces, figures, and movements that connect us to this land and its multi-layered history.

-- Tour Overview

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THANK YOU!

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Spring & Summer Field Trips

Jeff Steele

JUNE 25

Bird and Nature Adventure: Preserving the Preserve (Sun, 1:30–3 p.m.) Join UW Preserve staff as they show-case ongoing ecological restoration projects and give an update on the Preserve Master plan—all while enjoying the trails, sights, and sounds of the Preserve in summer. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot off Lake Mendota Drive. Coordinator: Bryn Scriver (bryn.scriver@wisc.edu, 608-220-5560)

JULY 16

Summer Citizen Science Sampler (Sun, 1:30–3 p.m.) Join us to learn about ways to contribute to citizen science by observing plants, insects and more! All you need is your curiosity; we'll provide training to get you started! Citizen Science is one way to gather biological data, which drives future management decisions. Your help and interest are appreciated! Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Coordinated by Anne Pearce (anne.pearce@wisc.edu).

JULY 23

Bird and Nature Adventure: Class of 1918 Marsh (Sun, 1:30–3 p.m.) Take a hike around the Marsh to learn its history and biology including threats to the marsh from invasive cattail species and chloride. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: John Magnuson (john.magnuson@wisc.edu).

AUGUST 27

Bird and Nature Adventures: An Introduction to the Lovely Mosses and Other Bryophytes of the Preserve (Sun, 1:30–3:30 p.m.) Join doctoral candidate Brandon Corder with the UW Botany Dept. to look for and learn about the miniature worlds of mosses and ferns. Brandon will demonstrate how to use the iNaturalist app to help you identify plants, learn interesting facts about them, and report sightings as citizen scientists for research. Student and family friendly! Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Brandon Corder (bcorder@wisc.edu).



Come learn about bees, dragonflies, and other insects this summer by participating in seven different community science projects led by the UW Insect Ambassadors! Each event will feature a short talk from an insect expert followed by an hour of guided data collection.

All events are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome (although some data collection will need an adult helper). Registration is required.

EVENTS

Garden Pests and Beneficials (June 24th, 1-3pm)

*at the Eagle Heights Community Garden

Firefly Night (July 8th, 6-8pm)

Bumblebee Brigade (July 29th, 1-3pm)

Wisconsin Butterfly Monitoring (Aug 4th, 1-3pm)

Dragonfly Monitoring Program (Aug 26th, 1-3pm)

Learn more and register for an event at our website!



Scan the QR code or visit the [UW Entomology website](https://entomology.wisc.edu)



This series is funded by a UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve [Student Engagement Grant](#).

From the Director of Sustainability...

By Missy Nergard PhD



It's officially summer! While the Preserve is undergoing this seasonal transformation, the staff are also working through cycles of change. I am pleased to announce that Laura Wyatt has graciously agreed to serve as the Interim Director for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Her extensive knowledge, experience, and leadership has been invaluable through the process of organizationally aligning with the University's

Sustainability program. The Preserve staff, and our colleagues in Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture routinely practice and promote sustainability throughout the campus environment. Their strength of character and commitment has carried us through this transition, and I am deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their leadership. They have been the vanguard for environmental sustainability on campus and have laid a foundation on which all of us can build.

Transitions will continue however, since Laura has indicated that she doesn't want to work forever. In a truly bureaucratic response, I have asked her to work even harder to help us prepare for when she does retire. While there are no set timelines, we do anticipate hiring a full-time director in the next year. We will keep everyone up to speed and make sure there is ample opportunity to hear from you.

Finally, on a very personal note, I would like to share my condolences with the family, friends and communities grieving the loss of Dr. Jim Skibo. Dr. Skibo and his colleague Tamara Thomsen gave a fascinating, humorous, and warm recounting of the discovery of the ancient canoes in Lake Mendota as the guest speakers at the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Annual Meeting on April 12. Dr. Skibo was an extraordinarily positive influence, and his light and laughter will be sorely missed.



Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

Laura Wyatt, Interim Director

laura.wyatt@wisc.edu

Bryn Scriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

bryn.scriver@wisc.edu

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

adam.gundlach@wisc.edu

Student Natural Area Assistants:

- Soleil Bieniek
- César García
- Parker Gimbel
- Ana Michaelson

The Office of Sustainability, under the direction of Dr. Missy Nergard, serves as the administrative home for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

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