

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management -FPM  
Preserve Staff Reports – October 20, 2023

**OPERATIONS - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Interim Director

**Permits issued since our last meeting on May 12, 2023:**

- 2023 – #61 – Coppock – Fire & Biocore
- 2023 – #60 – Moreno -DPLA – Fig106IAS
- 2023 – #59 –CAugust – BTNY691 - buckthorn
- 2023 – #58 – Chavin – BTNY460 – buckthorn
- 2023 – #57 – BTNY 460 -Lichen Richness
- 2023 – #56 – Baumgardt – BTNY 460
- 2023 – #55 – Havlicek – ECOL370
- 2023 – #54 – Cheney - BTNY460
- 2023 – #53 – August – BTNY 460 - buckthorn
- 2023 – #52 – Dubois – InterStd106-canoe treatment
- 2023 – #51 – Keady – Biocore soils
- 2023 – #50 – AGR 370 -Pet Grasslands
- 2023 – #49 – Garcia -
- 2023 – #48 – Cain – Fresco Opera Singers
- 2023 – #47 – Pauli – Wildlife Techniques
- 2023 – #46 – Lor – Continuing Studies
- 2023 – #45 – Jones – Continuing Studies
- 2023 – #44 – Garcia - Lichen
- 2023 – #43 – Multicultural Center - SEG
- 2023 – #42 – Homann – N and fire
- 2023 – #41 – Havlicek – pollen nutrition - SEG
- 2023 – #40 – Allen Centennial – willow collection
- 2023 – #39 – Woodware – Tree ID
- 2023 – #38 – Merkel - FHKing
- 2023 – #37 – Annalisa Steve – Urban Garden Soils
- 2023 – #36 – Cryer - Forestry
- 2023 – #35 – Meindl – Disturbance Ecology
- 2023 – #34 – Boswell – Preserve Accessibility-SEG
- 2023 – #33 – Barlin – Greenhouse-Envir Studies117
- 2023 – #32 – Fleweger – DATCP EHG
- 2023 – #31 – USGS Bat study – Tonie Rocke
- 2023 – #30 – Kneisel – Carbon Storage
- 2023 – #29 –Young - ENTM
- 2023 – #28 – Snake survey - Vuyk
- 2023 – #27 – Stress tolerance - Anderson
- 2023 – #26 – Housing Dining - Garbe

- Preserve staff, interns and volunteers celebrate a productive growing season making critical contributions to the management and care of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
- We welcomed four Natural Area Assistants (NAA) -summer interns gaining applied experience in natural area land management, Soleil Bienek, Cesar Garcia, Parker Gimbel, and Anna Michaelson. These students joined with the five Prairie Partner interns who worked on the Preserve one day per week for 12 weeks. Prairie Partners are funded by the Friends of the Preserve. The NAAs are funded through the Preserve gift funds. Soleil and Parker have continued working with us this semester.
- We celebrate 46 donors to the Preserve during the “Fill the Hill” event in October. Initial donation total is. \$ 2,525. Kudos to Bryn for facilitating our on-line presence. As managing staff for our fundraising efforts, I am completing training for the Foundation’ s new software.
- Our hand-pump water fountain on Picnic Point was finally opened this summer, for a short time, but soon suffered from an equipment malfunction which caused us to close it. As is tradition, it is closed for the season and will be repaired and opened next spring.
- We continue to remove declining ash trees that pose risk to visitors because of their proximity to visitors gathering spaces. The UW-Madison has provided \$50,000 for hazard tree removal during the FY23/24 budget.
- The UW Campus Farm (formerly CALS research plots) within Eagle Heights Gardens is struggling for the second year. Nearly half the allocated land is plagued with invasive weeds, including Canada thistle. Housing’s Dining and Culinary Services has stepped forward and is funding a half-time “farm manager” and working on a new process for ensuring improved garden management.
- Our staff is meeting with Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the **Ho-Chunk** Nation and an associate, Rene’ Heiden, and others to explore the creation of a *Traditional Cultural Property* within Eagle Heights Woods. This would be an area welcoming to members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and others to the scared mound area.
- Preserve tours have been provided to the West Campus District project planning representative and Carla Vigue, our new UW-Madison Tribal relations Director.
- In partnership with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, two postdoc positions have been created that will support campus sustainability and future natural area restoration in the Preserve through surveying and monitoring. The first position will design and implement an academic study of UW-managed lands (starting with the Preserve) to document natural capital assets, quantify ecosystem benefits, and estimate emissions reductions towards meeting or exceeding net-zero carbon goals by 2048 or sooner. The second position will develop a methodology and conduct an assessment for areas of biodiversity importance including main campus and select outlying lands at least every other year.

2023 visitor count through September - individuals walking along path to tip of Picnic point – **your guess?**

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

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

- On the east end of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path at the Limnology Building a study is being done to see if the path can be improved along the south side of the building, toward the Preserve.

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

- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan, complete will be presented to FPM leadership and Campus Planning Committee.
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center Advanced Plan is complete. Further design and construction will be at a future time.

### **LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE** – Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Onboarded 4 student Natural Area Assistants in May/June who worked the summer season in the Preserve. Two of the students have continued part-time work into the fall semester.
- The Preserve's Natural Areas Assistants crew were kept busy seeking and removing invasive species, performing daily maintenance of the Picnic Point fire circles, performing trail maintenance (largely brush removal) along main user paths, monitoring the site for hazards and user issues, while learning the tools, techniques, and approaches to land management.  
As of late, the Preserve's remaining 2 Natural Area Assistants have spent a good amount of time collecting and processing seeds from the bounty of native species coming into fruitful maturity.
- Completed another successful season working with the Prairie Partners intern crew on Thursdays for 12 weeks from late May to early August, funded by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and administered through the Madison Audubon Society. Provided a series of talks by experts on a variety of subjects related to ecology and land management.
- Entering the fall semester, several classes have been active in the Preserve and Preserve staff have been busy responding to research permit applications, requests for information from student projects, and requests to speak to classes about the Preserve, ecological restoration, and career paths in natural resources.
- Volunteers have been busy clearing invasive brush along the main Picnic Point path, Temin Lakeshore Path and in Second Point Woods. See Bryn's volunteer report.
- Performed routine Preserve-wide site checks and Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.
- Waiting on approval of Master Plan Update. Once completed, focus will shift to working with new post-doc hires in 2024 to establish survey efforts for biodiversity and carbon sequestration estimates on Preserve lands.

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

### Outreach activities:

- Participated in Morgridge Center for Public Service **Fall Public Service Fair** (9-18-23) and UW Housing and OS **Sustain-A-Bash** (9-22-23) event to raise awareness of Preserve programming and volunteer opportunities.
- For the first time participated in **UW Employee Benefits Fair** touting Preserve as resource for wellbeing and as an outdoor classroom providing maps and prairie seed packets on 10-3-23.
- Provided maps and suggestions for ways to connect with nature at UHS **Mental Wellbeing Resource Fair** on 10-10-23.
- Provided a guided tour of the Preserve for **PLATO** members on 10-10-23. (*PLATO, the Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization, is a non-profit learning-in-retirement organization*).
- Hosted **Office of Sustainability staff and interns** for a tour and volunteer activity in Frautschi Point on 7-26-23.
- Preserve staff participated in orientation of Preserve to new **Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve board members** on 8-1-23. Continue to advertise and promote Friends of the Preserve field trips by email, social media, and tabling events.
- With Director Wyatt, met with **Multicultural Student Center** directors on 8-28-23 to learn more about our programs and how we can support each other.
- Continued the tradition of hosting volunteers from the **Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration** programs (8-30-23 and 8-31-23) as part of their student orientations.
- Hosted UW students and staff for an ecological restoration work party on 9-1-23 as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Bucky's Big Event** sponsored by the Morgridge Center for Public Service.
- Collaborated with the UW Conservation Biology Program and the Wisconsin Society for Conservation Biology Student Chapter to host a **2023 Welcome Week** volunteer activity and campfire on Picnic Point on 9-9-23.
- Hosted sustainability focused **Scan Design Fellows** (both Danish and American students) for a tour and volunteer activity on 9-30-23.

- Collaborated with Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve President Will Vuyk to add 10 new poetry stops on the existing Preserve Audio Trail.
- With Director Wyatt, participated in Wisconsin Foundation’s **Fill the Hill** Fundraising event by engaging with social media—raised 43 gifts for the Preserve

Volunteer activities:

From June 1 to September 30, we engaged 168 volunteers (including 13 UW and community groups) in the restoration and maintenance of the Preserve. They contributed 653 hours (not including RL hours). During the academic year we focus our engagement on UW students/groups, and during the summer months we welcome more non-UW groups to volunteer activities. Since June, 68% of volunteers were UW students.

Volunteer activities included: pulling herbaceous weeds/invasive plants, cutting and hauling away invasive woody plants, collecting native seeds, picking up trash, cutting vegetation back from trails, checking on signage, reporting trail hazards, transplanting and watering native plants.



**Danish and American Scan Design program members visited the Biocore Bird Banding Observatory and collected prairie seeds on a tour of the Preserve, September 30, 2023.**