

11/17/2023

Preserve Committee Meeting

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report

Will Vuyk, Friends Board President

<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com>

Projects

Before the November 1st deadline, the Friends submitted project proposals for our usual spring garlic mustard pull and a new fall seed collecting volunteer event. This fall seed collecting event will be in lieu of our past spring planting event. We will not be organizing the spring planting event this year due to a lack of necessary volunteer support last year. This is an expensive event, both in terms of cost and time, so we will need to ensure sufficient volunteer support before considering a similar event again for the future.

Field Trips

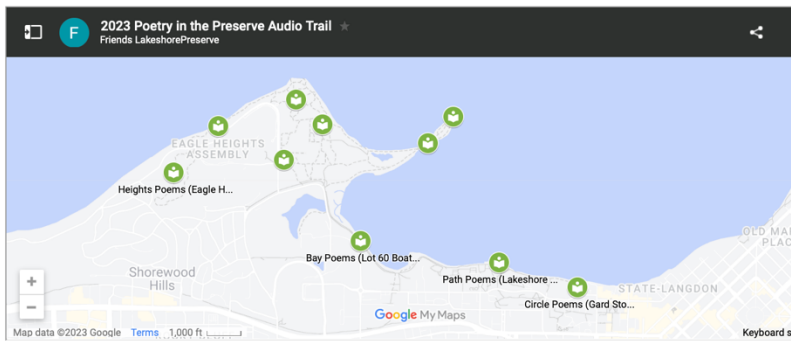
Since the last Preserve Committee meeting the Friends have hosted field trips on forest bathing with Biocore Instructor Seth McGee, poetry with Friends President Will Vuyk and FUN coordinator Paul Noeldner, trees with Madison Park's Conservation Resource Supervisor Paul Quinlan, effigy mounds with Wisconsin Historical Society Archaeologist Dr. Amy Rosebrough, and the geologic history of the Preserve with DNR geologist Philip Fauble. See below for upcoming trips in November and December.

Fall 2023 Newsletter

At the end of August, the Friends released our 2023 Fall Newsletter which can be found here: https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/uploads/2/6/9/3/26931781/flnp-fall-2023-newsletter-final_red.pdf. In the newsletter, in addition to other updates and stories, we describe the successful installation of the Preserve Poetry Audio Trail and our efforts to characterize amphibian diversity in the Preserve.



2023 "Poetry in the Preserve" Audio Trail



<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/poetry.html>

Preserve Poetry Audio Trail

The Preserve Poetry Audio Trail adds ten poetry stops to the existing call-in audio trail, using live-recorded original poetry from the Friends' "It's in Our Nature" open mic events. The poetry stops are marked with newly designed signs that describe out to use the audio trail and present author and poem information. All other information, including poem text, is hosted on the Friends webpage here:

Friends of Amphibians Initiative



This summer was the first field season of the new Friends of Amphibians (FoA) initiative, started by the Jessica Hua Lab, the Friends, and 9 other community nature non-profit organizations around Madison. The FoA initiative aims to collect amphibian species occupancy/abundance, water quality, and pathogen load data on urban wetlands in the Madison

area using a network of citizen scientists coordinated by the Hua Lab. We had a very successful first season, with 162 volunteer observations recorded from 20 sites around Madison. See more information in the summary infographic below, and on our website at:

<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/citizenscience.html/#friendsofamphibians>

All are welcome...

Friends of Amphibians
MEET UP

Join us to celebrate our first field season, revisit our spring goals, and enjoy food while discussing improvements!

Saturday, Oct 28, 2023
1pm - 3pm
109 State St.

Recommended Parking:
State St Capitol Garage

RSVP by Oct. 23
to join us!

The FOA had a successful celebration of our first season on Saturday October 28th. Between the volunteer collected data and additional research sampling done by the Hua lab we collected a lot of data on local amphibian populations and their parasites/pathogens. The Hua lab constructed monthly soundscapes from our audio recordings of frog and toad calls which was very cool. One finding of note is that **spring peepers were mysteriously absent this year from the Madison-area**. We will need more data in the future to confirm if this was a fluke or a longer-term situation.

Upcoming Field Trips

Sunday, November 26
Fun Fall Birding (FUN)
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Join birders Chuck Henrikson and Paul Noeldner along with other experienced and beginning birders for a free, family-friendly guided bird walk. Enjoy the wonderful variety of migrating birds that visit the lakeshore and large natural areas of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve. 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 as well as common loons making their wild calls. The Preserve also hosts year-round residents like black-capped chickadees, nuthatches, barred owls, tree sparrows and juncos, moving 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).

Saturday, December 9

Are You There, Insects? It's Me, Winter!

noon - 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered where in-sects are in the cold winter months or how they survive? Join Gigi Melone, graduate student and member of the Insect Ambassador Group, for a talk and scavenger hunt for overwintering insects. We will learn about the clever mechanisms insects use to survive freezing temperatures and how we can engage in insect conservation beyond planting gardens and avoiding pesticides. Lecture room TBA. Leader: Gigi Melone (gmelone@wisc.edu).

Sunday, December 24

A Holiday Walk: The Friends' Favorite Places (FUN)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Need a nature break from the festivities? Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner and Friends board members for a family-friendly guided walk on easy hiking paths through the Preserve. Learn about the places they love and hear about Friends' citizen science and volunteer projects. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Paul Noeldner. (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).