

12/15/2023

Preserve Committee Meeting

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report

Will Vuyk, Friends Board President

<https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com>

Financial Support

The Friends recently helped support an Eagle Scout project to build new wood racks for fire circles on Picnic Point. We were glad to hear from Laura Wyatt that these racks are now being constructed and will keep the Preserve's firewood dry and off the ground. Now that the status of the Prairie Partners Internship program is uncertain with Badgerland Birds no longer administering it, the Friends have also been in discussion with Preserve Staff about supporting the Preserve's Natural Areas Assistant program. As of last week, we have budgeted \$9,000 in 2024 to pay for the summer wages of a Preserve Natural Areas Assistant.

MoU Discussion

The Friends Board has recently been in discussion with Preserve Staff and the Office of Sustainability about drafting and signing a Memorandum of Understanding. These discussions are ongoing.

Field Trips

Since the last Preserve Committee meeting the Friends have hosted two bird watching field trips and one field trip about insects and what they do in the winter. Reports from these trips will be posted here on our website: <https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/people--events>.

Upcoming Field Trips

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).

Sunday, January 28

Winter Wonderland (FUN)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a winter walk at the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve in January. Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner and take in some of winter's magic! Stop to reflect on the

small, surprising beauty of green moss peeping from a log or rock. Look for amazing ice sculptures along the shoreline. Watch for animal tracks! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader. Paul Noeldner (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

Sunday, February 25

Winter Birds (FUN)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Join our birding guide Chuck Henrikson for a walk in the Preserve to see winter birds. Even with ice and snow, there are beautiful, bright noisy birds to encounter at the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve: blue jays, cardinals, tufted titmice, woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, wild turkeys, owls and more! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Chuck Henrikson. (ckhenrikson@gmail.com).

Sunday, March 24

Early Migrants (FUN)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Join our birding guides Chuck Henrikson and Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner for early spring magic! The equinox says that spring has sprung. The bays, shorelines, woodlands, marshes and prairies of the Preserve offer food and shelter for a variety of bird species. This means the Preserve is a great place to find returning migrants. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Chuck Henrikson and Paul Noeldner (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).