

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management -FPM  
Preserve Staff Reports – March 14, 2024

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

**Permits issued since our last meeting in December**

- 2024 – #19 – SWIBirds – Birding Tour
- 2024 – #18 – 460-Lichens
- 2024 – #17 – 401 Vascular Flora
- 2024 – #16 – DCS Campus Farm
- 2024 – #15 – FWE-GreenHouse\_Community
- 2024 – #14 – People’s Farm
- 2024 – #13 – BTNY460\_Anthropod-WoodDecay
- 2024 – #12 – WISailTeam
- 2024 – #11 – BTNY460\_LichenStudy
- 2024 – #10 – DNR\_Bat\_Survey
- 2024 – #9 – 460\_BirdSeedConsumption
- 2024 – #8 – BTNY460\_PPCanopyStudy
- 2024 – #7 – FWE375\_BioticSenseof Place
- 2024 – #6 – EC460\_Nests
- 2024 – #5 – DeptSoilScience
- 2024 – #4 – BTNY460\_GenEcology
- 2024 – #3 – BTNY460\_BarkForgingBirds
- 2024 – #2 – FWE\_Radeloff
- 2024 – #1 – Navy\_ROTc

- Winter has been an extremely busy time for planning. After holding a public meeting for stakeholders in November to report on 2023 accomplishments and receive comment, the staff worked to compile a work plan for the FY24/25. With the plan in hand, we completed a 233 budget funded by gift funds held at the UW Foundation. We will review these documents at our April meeting.
- A review of our fundraising for 2023: Received 200 gifts from donors. A total of \$181,350.70 was donated. \$52,040.80 was designated by donors for specific Preserve approved projects. \$129,309.90 is available for Preserve restorations and programs. Please note at the time of this publication, gifts given in tribute may not have been properly identified due to transition of Foundation gift recording software. Corrections will be made once corrected information is available.
- Thanks to everyone who promoted the Student Engagement Grants (SEG). We received 8 applications: the most ever.
- We will begin interviewing for four Natural Areas Assistants (our interns). We received 41 applications. Because the Prairie Partner Program has been discontinued due to the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon Society) not organizing the program, the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve will be donating \$9,000 to support one intern. The remaining funds come from the E. David Cronon Stewardship Fellows of the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserves Fund and our gift funds, all held by the UW Foundation.
- Rhonda and I have been providing short presentations on the Preserve Master Plan to administrators. A presentation is scheduled for the campus Design Review Board on March 19. Learn more about the Master Plan at: <https://cpd.fpm.wisc.edu/projects/lakeshore-nature-preserve-master-plan-update/>.

- Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents accepted a gift from Jerry Frautschi for the Preserve's first building, the Frautschi Center on March 8-9. This will permit us to proceed to the next stage of planning which involves the development of design plans for bidding. We (with support from the UW Foundation) have been challenged to raise an additional \$5 million for the Frautschi Center Fund for the Future to support ongoing operations (including, but not limited to, building maintenance, improvements, and upgrades) and programming for the operations and programming for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Frautschi Center and its outdoor spaces. Read about this exciting news at <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/>.
- With the new facility, the Preserve will be seeking to enter into an agreement with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to formalize our relationship, increase efficiencies and business practices and help set the Preserve on a stronger financial base. We are looking at agreements that the University Arboretum has established with their Friends group as a template.
- After 46 years of a career journey working within the field of managing natural areas and nurturing the people-plant connect, I will celebrate my retirement in August. I have been truly blessed with a supportive family, inspiring mentors and engaging colleagues. The UW is conducting a nation-wide search for the "first" full-time Director for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Application deadline is April 17, 2024. For more information visit <https://jobs.wisc.edu/>.

**2023 fire circle reservations -1,840** (this does not include spontaneous use of open fire circles); representing approximate estimate of minimum of 26,206 participants

**2023 visitor count – 158,799**

**2024 through 2/29/2024 – 10,844** - individuals walking along path to tip of Picnic Point

#### **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. This will require trees on the slope south of Limnology be cut down, how far up the slope is still undetermined.
- Study of surfacing and lighting on the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path will be beginning in the next month or so.

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

- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Frautschi Center Advanced Plan is complete. UW acceptance of the Jerry Frautschi gift has moved us to working with the architecture firm to set up terms for the remainder of the design and construction documents.

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

- Rx burn plans and preparations are in full swing, including work with LA 581 instructor Jeb Barzen and UW Arboretum's Michael Hansen to expand the course offering to a second session using the Preserve (Biocore prairie) as a location for class live fire exercises in April 2024.
- Provided herbicide application demo at Willow Creek savanna for George Meindl's Practices of Silviculture class. Planning Rx fire demo for Meindl's Disturbance Ecology class.
- Began planning and initial site tours with Damschen Lab (Christopher Warneke, Stephanie McFarlane) to kick off biodiversity assessment project.

- Worked with the Natural Area Assistant (NAA) crew (Soleil and Parker) to complete brush removal and cut-stem treatments at the water utility field west of Biocore prairie, creating burn piles for winter '24-25.
- Completed brush pile burns in Frautschi Point Woods, east savanna field and Eagle Heights Woods, disposing of debris generated by volunteer and intern work in 2023.
- Planning 2024 NAA crew hiring and onboarding schedule.
- 2024-25 work planning in progress.
- Performed routine Preserve-wide site checks and Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

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

### Volunteer activities:

- Sat 1-13-24, Land Spirit Project and Ho-Chunk volunteers, removed downed wood from on and around mounds, Eagle Heights Woods, 6 volunteers
- Sat 2-10-24, Drop-in volunteer event, cut and treat tree lilac and buckthorn, Picnic Point entrance, 5 volunteers
- Sat 3-9-24, Drop-in, ESW RSA, and Delta Tau Delta volunteers, Frautschi Point
- Sun 3-10-24, Women in Business, WSCB, AED, Bx3 volunteer, Picnic Point

### Total volunteers:

UW – 4+

Other – 7+

Calendar of upcoming volunteer events: <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/events-calendar/>

### Outreach activities:

- *Style Sheet and Quick Facts*, sent to campus partners and communicators, available on Preserve website in our Digital Library: <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/the-preserve-digital-library/>
- UW Volunteer Manager Community of Practice, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter meeting 1-18-24, UW Volunteer policy and volunteer recognition
- February Newsletter (moving from 3 a year to 6 a year)
- All-Biology Joint Graduate Student Recruitment Poster Session, 2-8-24
- IPAW (Invasive Plants of Wisconsin) tabling at Garden Expo, 2-9-24
- Building campaign promotion (with Sustainability, FP&M and University communications, Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association) launch 2-10-24
- Restoration Managers who work with Volunteers Meeting (County, City, State Natural Areas, Arb, Holy Wisdom, Olin-Turville Friends, Upper Sugar River, Edd Maps Renz Lab) 2-15-24
- CEE Undergraduate Job Fair, Birge, 2-27-24
- Morgridge Center Public Service Fair, Gordon, 3-4-24
- Planning for 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Open House/Science Expeditions, Sunday April 7 from noon-4pm
- Planning for Day of the Badger Fundraising event, April 16-17



Volunteers removed downed wood from on and around the Indian burial mounds at Eagle Heights Woods.