

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management -FPM
Preserve Staff Reports – April 11, 2024

OPERATIONS - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Interim Director

Permits issued since our last meeting March 14

- 2024 – #24 –WI Mycological Society
- 2024 – #23 –BTNY 460 - Bryophytes (Mosses)
- 2024 – #22 – BTNY 460 – BirdNest Locations
- 2024 – #21 – InsectCollection – Uni. Nebraska
- 2024 – #20 – Ecol460 UnderStoryTreeStd

- We interviewed 17 candidates for our four available Natural Areas Assistants (our interns) positions. Please welcome Sophia Krupa, Connor Roberson, Lee Vanghuam and Jude Whale. They will start at the end of May.
- \$5 million campaign for the Frautschi Center Fund for the Future has been launched to support the long-term operations and programming of the Frautschi Center. The Preserve is partnering with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association to lead the campaign. The WFAA will be focusing on seeking gifts of \$25,000 and greater with the Preserve organizing efforts to reach out to “Preserve Partners” for gifts less than \$25,000. Thanks to Rhonda James and Bryn Scriver for working with Lauren Graves (Office of Sustainability communication staff) in creating a brochure for distribution. Please see attachment. I will be working on organizing the Preserve Partners campaign along with the new director and others interested in the campaign. If you are interested, able to help, have ideas, suggestions, please reach out to me. We need all kinds of support!
- Thanks to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for inviting the Preserve to share a 2023 update at their Annual Meeting on April 3. We had the campaign brochure available for distribution and look at hosting an additional live meeting regarding the campaign for the membership at a later date.
- We are looking for a recurrence of a Spongy Moth infestation this year. We have experienced two seasons of increasing numbers, although the egg masses do appear to be less than last year. PJ Leisch, Director of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab was on site to review the situation and also discuss with our Natural Area Assistants. As in previous years we will be posting information in areas of the Preserve where infestations are heaviest. Sprays are not practical or recommended for wooded areas. Like most insect infestations, we expect the populations to decline as predator insects and parasites increase.

2024 visitor count – 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 burns completed March 11, 13 and 28 at University Bay Drive swales, Picnic Point mounds unit and entrance rain gardens, Frautschi shoreline units, Biocore prairie Area 2, and the Biocore overlook woods edge.
- The first LA 581 live fire exercises scheduled for Thursday April 4 were canceled due to damp conditions following days of rain/snow. Weather permitting, later this afternoon the class will convene at Biocore prairie to practice ignition and holding techniques while burning breaks through the prairie, dividing the site into sub-units that will be used in successive class periods to practice spot fire suppression and small-scale ring fire implementation.
- Finished sowing the remaining seed on hand over areas disturbed by hazard tree removal, prior herbicide application and fire at Picnic Point, Muir Woods and Frautschi Point.
- Worked with the Natural Areas Assistant (NAA) crew (Soleil and Parker) to perform basal treatments to young woody sprouts in the central zone of Eagle Heights Woods and monitor/remove fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*) from locations within and bordering Eagle Heights Apartments.
- Continued initial site tours with Damschen Lab (Christopher Warneke, Stephanie McFarlane) in support of planning priorities for the biodiversity assessment project.
- Planning Rx fire demo for George Meindl’s Disturbance Ecology class Tuesday April 24.
- Interviewed and hired 2024 NAA crew. Onboarding scheduled for late May 2024.
- 2024-25 work planning in progress.
- Performed routine Preserve-wide site checks and Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance
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OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Upcoming April Volunteer activities:

- Sat 4-6-24, Drop-in volunteer event, Frautschi Point
- Tues 4-9-24, Intro to Sustainability Class, Muir Woods
- Sun 4-14-24, Multicultural Greek Council, Engineering Honors Society, and Collegiate 4H, TBD
- Sat 4-20-24, Actuarial Club, Honors Society Organization, Willow Beach
- Sat 4-20-24, Earth Fest activity - OS Green Office, Muir Woods/Lot 34
- Sun 4-21-24, Earth Fest activity – Drop-in volunteer event, Picnic Point entrance
- Sun 4-21-24, Society for Women Engineers and Mercile J Lee Scholars, TBD
- Tues 4-23-24, UW Psi Chi, TBD
- Wed 4-24-24, GreenHouse Seminar, Willow Beach
- Thurs 4-25-24, Earth Fest activity – American Cetacean Society Student Coalition, Frautschi Point/Tent Colony Woods

See the Preserve events calendar: <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/events-calendar/>

Outreach activities:

- March Newsletter
- Frautschi Center Fund for the Future brochure
- Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve 23rd Annual Meeting display materials
- Science Expeditions/175th Anniversary Community Open House, Sunday April 7 from noon-4pm
 - Soils with UW Soils Club
 - Insects with Insect Ambassadors
 - Birds with Audubon Society of UW-Madison
 - Geology of rock wall with WGNHS/DNR/UW Emeritus Geosciences faculty
 - Campus sustainability with Office of Sustainability interns
 - Trees with Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
 - Mounds with WI Historical Society staff archaeologist
 - Frautschi Center with FPM staff
- Day of the Badger Fundraising event, April 16-17

