

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management -FPM  
Preserve Staff Reports – May 2, 2024

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

**Permits issued since our last meeting April 11**

- 2024 – #28 –Land Restoration -LA363
- 2024 – #27 –EarthFest Clean-Up -
- 2024 – #26 –BioZoo102-Redwing Blackbird Observation
- 2024 – #25 – Nature & Senses – Kline 316

- 50 applications have been received for the position of Director for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Initial review has begun, and a select number of individuals will be invited to virtual interviews with the search committee. Once completed a smaller group will be invited to campus for additional interviews and meetings with various groups. We hope to schedule an opportunity for the Preserve Committee to meet final candidates. Please watch your emails. Thanks to the interview committee comprised of Rob Beattie, Susan Carpenter (UW Arb), Gebriel Lefebvre (UW Apartments), Carla Vigue (UW Tribal Relations), Ellen Agnew (Physical Plant Services), Rhonda James, Missy Nergard, and Laura Wyatt (ex-official).
- The beloved hand-pump drinking fountain located along the walk to Picnic Point was repaired earlier this week. Last year we spent nearly \$3,500 in gift funds for repairs. We are hoping for better success this season.
- The campaign to raise \$5 million in support of the Frautschi Center Fund for the Future will launch this summer. We will keep you informed of the progress and invite any PC members interested in being involved in the planning of the campaign to contact Laura. Please consider a gift.
- A BIG thanks to the 61 people who supported the Day of the Badger, April 16-17. We raised \$4,005 in gifts and add to that a matching challenge by the Friends of \$6,000 for a GRAND TOTAL of **\$10,005**. Thanks to Bryn Sriver for managing this very successful project. We will be using the funds to purchase mobility devices to increase accessibility to the Preserve.
- I continue to be amazed and celebrate the work of our Preserve Team! While we all are focused on protecting and improving the ecology of the Preserve. . .this work is all completed through and with our students as applied learning experiences. Bryn and Adam are extremely knowledgeable of the science of land restoration and skilled in teaching and working with students. . .our shared future.

**2024 visitor count** – through 3/30/2024 – **23,885** - 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 and restoration plan 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:**

- For the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Frautschi Center:
  - There will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meeting online on May 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

## Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 279 245 268 085

Passcode: RxzJ7v

- In May the consultant team will be doing site investigations.
- Design is expected to begin again in June.
- Bidding is expected to be in March & April 2025.
- Construction is expected to begin in June 2025 and conclude in August 2026.
- Bench Selection – we are in the process of researching a new bench standard for the Preserve.
- Raymer's Cove – we are working on a plan to do regrading to reduce erosion on the site and relocate some large rocks to eliminate parking on the west side of the drive.

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

- Picnic Point gate has been repaired.
- April 25, the skies finally broke and allowed the first successful LA 581 live fire exercises in Biocore prairie. The exercises provide students practice with ignition and holding techniques while burning firebreaks through the prairie, as well as spot fire suppression. A cadre of volunteer instructors provide intimate mentoring during the exercises. UW Communications had a photo/video crew onsite to document the activities, as part of a feature being compiled about Rx fire learning opportunities on the UW campus.
- Rx burns completed April 13, 21, 25 at Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore prairie and Raymer's Cove.
- Worked with the Natural Areas Assistant (NAA) crew (Soleil and Parker) to continue basal treatments to young woody sprouts in the central zone of Eagle Heights Woods and initiate garlic mustard removal efforts on greater Picnic Point when not supporting Rx fire preparations.
- Work in the coming weeks will shift focus to control of garlic mustard, dame's rocket and other spring invasive species.
- Held a Rx fire demo for George Meindl's Disturbance Ecology class Tuesday April 24.
- Planning onboarding for new NAAs crew in late May 2024.
- Performed routine Preserve-wide site checks and Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.



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

#### April Volunteer activities:

- Sat 4-6-24, Drop-in volunteer event, Frautschi Point, remove honeysuckle, 9 volunteers
- Tues 4-9-24, Intro to Sustainability Class, Muir Woods, discuss land management and remove honeysuckle, 17 volunteers
- Sun 4-14-24, Multicultural Greek Council, water utility field, remove woody plants, 8 volunteers
- Sun 4-14-24, Engineering Honors Society and Collegiate 4H, Frautschi field edge, remove honeysuckle, 7 volunteers
- Sat 4-20-24, Actuarial Club and Honors Society Organization, Willow Creek, remove woody invasive resprouts, 10 volunteers
- Sat 4-20-24, Earth Fest activity - OS Green Office, Muir Woods/Lot 34, remove buckthorn, 18 volunteers
- Sun 4-21-24, Earth Fest activity – Drop-in volunteer event, Heritage Oak berm, pull garlic mustard, dames rocket and hedge parsley; and garden edge west of storage area, remove buckthorn, 15 volunteers
- Sun 4-21-24, Society for Women Engineers and Mercile J Lee Scholars, Lake Mendota Dr right of way, collect trash, and water utility field, cut woody plants, 4 volunteers
- Tues 4-23-24, UW Psi Chi, Muir Woods/Lot 34, remove buckthorn, 2 volunteers
- Wed 4-24-24, GreenHouse Seminar, Willow Creek Woods lower path, remove buckthorn, 8 volunteers
- Thurs 4-25-24, Earth Fest activity – American Cetacean Society Student Coalition, Tent Colony Woods, collect trash, 8 volunteers

UW volunteers: 63

Other: 2

Total: 65

#### Upcoming drop-in events:

Sun May 5, pull invasive garlic mustard with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot, 1:30-4pm

#### Outreach activities:

- Day of the Badger Fundraising event (April 16-17) communications—61 gifts of \$4,005 plus the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve's matching gift of \$6,000+ = \$10,005!
- Presentation to LA363: Earth Partnership: Restoration Education for Equity and Resilience



**Tim Van Deelan and his GreenHouse seminar students visit the beaver lodge at the mouth of Willow Creek after clearing invasive buckthorn. During their service activity they saw a great blue heron, a belted kingfisher, a palm warbler, 2 sandhill cranes, and 2 muskrats.**