



Director's Note

By Brad Herrick, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director



Living in the upper Midwest, we are accustomed to the change in seasons. Like many people, I am particularly fond of autumn, which brings a reprieve from the hot and often muggy summer months and a beautiful palette of natural colors. Autumn at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is highlighted by the vibrant yellows of goldenrods and striking purple asters in the prairies, the brilliant red of sumacs, and tree leaves glowing yellow, orange, and red.

Of course, another sure sign of autumn is the shortening of daylight. While this change is often less celebrated, it provides opportunities to witness the journey of migratory birds, monarchs, and green darner dragonflies (just to name a few) as they head south for the winter.

Situated on a college campus, the Preserve also marks the end of summer and beginning of autumn by welcoming the return of thousands of students as they enjoy the 10+ miles of Preserve trails, volunteer at a restoration work party, and begin new classes or independent research projects in the forests, prairies, and wetlands. The Preserve is a living laboratory and is profoundly important to the education and well-being of UW-Madison students. It has been exciting to observe the influx of students at the Preserve this fall!

Thank you for your interest, passion, and support of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Your involvement ensures that every fall, students will have access to a 300-acre campus natural area for research, education, respite, and well-being.

Save the Date for a Lakeshore Nature Preserve Town Hall

October 16th from 6:30-8 p.m.

UW-Madison Arboretum
(1207 Seminole Hwy)

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided

Please join Director Brad Herrick for an evening of conversation about the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Brad will share his perspectives after one year at the Preserve and discuss goals and priorities for the next year and beyond. He will also provide updates on the design and construction of the Frautschi Center and what the new space will mean for the Preserve, UW-Madison, and the broader community. After a brief presentation, the rest of the time will be dedicated to answering questions from the audience!

Jeff Miller/UW-Madison



Outdoor Learning is Our Point!

At the end of August, Wisconsin State Archaeologist Dr. Amy Rosebrough, led a well attended and fascinating nature walk to see and learn about effigy mounds in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other local Native American history—including the recent discoveries of ancient canoes in Lake Mendota.

Check out upcoming Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve field trips on the last page of this newsletter or view them on the Preserve [Events Calendar](#).

Cultural Ecosystem Services: Why Blue Spaces are Important

By Anna Swenson, Preserve Student Natural Area Assistant

When you think of an ecosystem service, you probably think of the physical or material benefits of the environment. However, one major category of ecosystem services includes the *cultural* benefits that ecosystems offer. A cultural ecosystem service is a non-material benefit that an ecosystem provides, contributing to a higher quality of life in intangible ways. These services broadly encompass psychological, physical, and spiritual benefits that spending time in nature can provide to a community. More specifically, they can be categorized into recreation, spiritual connection, aesthetic experiences, education, mental health support, and more.

You've probably heard of 'green spaces', but 'blue spaces'— outdoor environments that feature water— have become increasingly recognized for their mental health benefits. Research shows that spending time near blue spaces can reduce anxiety, increase attention span, improve mood, and support better sleep quality and hormonal regulation. These environments also promote physical well-being by encouraging activities like walking, running, and other forms of exercise linked to improved quality of life.



The Lakeshore Nature Preserve, with its 4.3 miles of shoreline and lake views, provides many benefits to students and community members. The Preserve's central location allows for easy access to a wide network of walking trails and outdoor gathering spaces, offering a much-needed outlet for recreation, restoration, and connection to nature. If you want to get out on the water, [Outdoor UW](#) offers stand-up paddleboard (SUP), kayak, and canoe rentals.

The Preserve is also a hub for environmental learning, hosting guided hikes, educational field trips, volunteer stewardship events, and environmentally focused research. These hands-on activities provide meaningful opportunities for community engagement. By fostering the connection between land

(and water) and people, these efforts not only enhance the campus's ecological health but also create a place for people to come together and create a community of environmental stewards.

Nature at Work: Keeping Lake Mendota Clean

By Leah Zuschlag, Preserve Student Natural Area Assistant

One of the great attributes of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is its miles of shoreline following Lake Mendota. Bioswales, a type of green infrastructure, help capture and filter stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces to keep the lake's water clean for aquatic life, recreation, and scenic views. Through native prairie and wetland plants and proper soil type, bioswales help filter phosphorus-laden sediment and pollutants like motor oil and grease. Without them, these contaminants are more likely to reach water systems, causing algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and harmful bacteria. In 2013, UW-Madison constructed a chain of bioswales in the Preserve between University Bay Drive and the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path.

This summer, my fellow Student Natural Area Assistants and I worked to maintain the bioswales by removing encroaching woody plants. Too many woody plants crowd out the grasses and wildflowers that are better at infiltrating and cleaning stormwater. Many of the woody species were

also invasive or aggressive, like buckthorn, honeysuckle, and elm.

Construction of the new Frautschi Center will necessitate rerouting and reconstructing some current bioswales. Plans also call for adding a bioswale south of University Bay Drive to collect and treat runoff before it enters the Class of 1918 Marsh.

Beyond their water treatment benefits, bioswales create microhabitats for wildlife. The presence of native plants is a natural attractant for pollinators and birds, providing food and shelter. They can also act as green corridors working to connect fragmented habitats, a growing concern. Bioswales are a vital, but often overlooked aspect of our natural environment. Blending into the surrounding landscape, a closer look reveals their role in enhancing urban ecosystems and creating functional landscapes for wildlife and people.



Student volunteers collect native switchgrass seed from a bioswale along University Bay Drive.

Forward?

By Adam Gundlach, Preserve Projects Coordinator

The growing season is an exercise in controlled chaos. There is too much to do and so much to learn, and decisions must be made about where to put effort when it's all happening everywhere at once.

There is an exuberance in growth, both in plant and animal life and in the mind. Overwhelmed by observations, mental notes are lost in the cracks of our memory upon the next observation. Photos replace written notes, containing a thousand words in each.

One thousand more words that may never be tended to as the original "note" intended...

Impressions of the thriving land community remain, though. Life hums all around and underfoot.

The land changes in unexpected ways. We want to feel like we're moving forward in our stewardship work, that linear,

sequential progression toward a future ideal. But life and land management are a game of learning to live with the cycles, regressions, pulses of resources and activity, and quiet dissolution of a stagnated effort years on down the trail.

Two steps forward, one step back.

The land as an organism has no interest in straight lines.

Still, we are moving forward with our work, bringing rays of opportunity where lies only shade and bare ground.

Forward-thinking to vibrant landscapes, long lake views, and a community that values and cultivates the wild nature in us all.



The head of Picnic Point was once solid buckthorn. With years of repeated cutting and seeding, a variety of native plants are rising to meet Preserve visitors as they arrive to the tip of the peninsula.



The old field adjacent to the Madison Water Utility's Well 19 is mostly smooth brome and other European pasture grasses. A controlled burn this spring followed by seeding begin the restoration of this area to prairie.



Since the early 1900s Bill's Woods, a mixed oak woodland, became choked with invasive brush. After several years of clearing, two prescribed burns, and seeding, the woodland features native plants and pollinators.

Adam Gundlach

Reminder: Respect University Closing Hours to Avoid Violations

By Jeff Kirchman, Community Police Officer & University Natural Areas Police Liaison Officer

As the semester begins, it's important to be aware of campus closing hours—especially in natural areas like the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Violating these hours not only disrupts university operations but may result in citations or disciplinary action.

Under Wisconsin Administrative Code UWS 18.07(2)(b), "No person, unless authorized to be present during closed periods, may enter or remain within the designated university lands, buildings, or portions thereof during a closed period established under this section." This includes all university property, such as academic buildings and outdoor spaces like the Preserve.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is open daily from 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Visitors must vacate the area by closing time. These rules help protect sensitive ecosystems, archaeological sites, and ensure public safety.

If you're unsure whether you're authorized to be on university property after hours, contact Lakeshore Nature Preserve staff or UWPD. Let's all do our part to respect university policies and preserve these shared spaces.

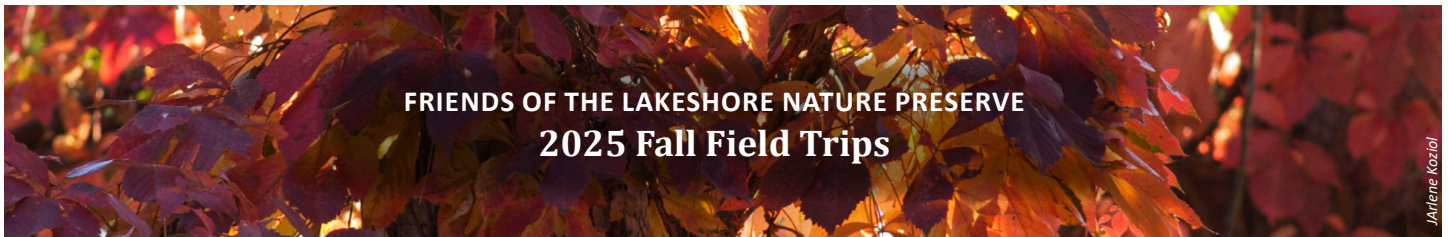


Xiaomeng Shen

Visitors, like these Hoofers Outing Club members, can enjoy the Preserve after dark, as long as fires are extinguished and guests leave the property by closing time.

Stay informed. Stay compliant. Stay safe.

You can reach Officer Kirchman at jkirchman@wisc.edu or 608-264-2677.



FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE
2025 Fall Field Trips

Jarlene Kozl

Sunday Sept 28 - Fascinating Fungi - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Explore and compare with Marie Trest (UW Department of Botany) the wide variety of fall fungi fruiting in the Preserve. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk (2000 University Bay Drive).

Saturday Oct 25 - Bat Acoustic Walk: In partnership with the 2025 Wisconsin Science Festival - 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Happy Bat Week 2025! Join the UW Bat Brigade for a bat walk in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Learn about bat conservation, acoustic surveying, and the important ecological roles bats play in Wisconsin. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk (2000 University Bay Drive).

Sunday Oct 26 - Poetry in the Preserve - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Connect with your favorite rhyme in time or free verse in the universe with naturalist Paul Noeldner. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk (2000 University Bay Drive).

Sunday Nov 9 - Geology of Eagle Heights Woods - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

From ancient Paleozoic seas to glacial ice sheets, learn how geology and geologic processes sculpted the landscape at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Accompany geologist Philip Fauble as he unlocks the grand story the rocks have to tell, from 2.3 billion year old boulders brought down from Canada on continental ice sheets to sand that was deposited on a tropical beach 500 million years ago. The earth has a grand story to tell if you know how to read it! Meet at Raymer's Cove parking lot (2900 Lake Mendota Drive). Note, parking is limited at this location.

Public parking is free on weekends and after 4:30pm on weekdays in Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). The entry point is served by Metro Bus Stop #2938 outbound and #2881 inbound. See map.wisc.edu.



SAVE THE DATE: "FLOCKTOBER" 9-10

Mark your calendar now
for this fabulous feathery tradition.
Visit uwflamingos.com to learn more
about this festive fundraiser.

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Staff

Brad Herrick, Director

bradley.herrick@wisc.edu

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

adam.gundlach@wisc.edu

Bryn Scriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

bryn.scriver@wisc.edu

Student Natural Area Assistants:

- Andi Hokanson
- Eden Milan
- Anna Swenson
- Leah Zuschlag

Student Research Assistants:

- Claire Foote
- Andrea Rodriguez Quiros



Work on the Temin Lakeshore Path at the Limnology Building has begun and is expected to last through November. The path south of the building is being reconstructed to improve safety for users.

Adam Gundlach



Lakeshore Nature Preserve
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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