



Director's Note: Garlic Mustard, Dame's Rocket, Buckthorn, oh my!

By Brad Herrick, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

Non-native, invasive plant species are the bane of all land managers. Invasive species can have profound consequences for native ecosystems, from pushing native species to extinction to fundamentally changing how plant nutrients and carbon cycle through the environment. In Wisconsin, non-native, invasive species are primarily endemic to Europe and Asia. They find their way to us inadvertently or in some cases were historically brought over intentionally because of perceived benefits. For example, the ubiquitous common buckthorn was brought to North America in the mid-1800's as an ornamental shrub and for its propensity for dense growth. It was sold widely in plant nurseries and used extensively as hedgerows to delineate property boundaries. However, due to its adaptability to a wide range of soil and light conditions, prolific seed production, and lack of predators, it quickly spread throughout the landscape with negative consequences to native plant and animal species.

In the United States alone, the cost of managing invasive species is estimated at nearly 140 billion annually¹. Building awareness about the impact of invasive species and how to manage, or in some cases, live with them is critically important. June was Invasive Species Action Month in Wisconsin, but there's a need for action every month. With that, we invite you to volunteer with us or another of one of your favorite conservation organizations to help rid natural areas of invasive plants and promote native species!

1 Pimentel, D., S. McNair, J. Janecka, J. Wightman, C. Simmonds, C. O'Connell, E. Wong, L. Russel, J. Zern, T. Aquino and T. Tsomondo. 2001. Economic and environmental threats of alien plant, animal, and microbe invasions. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 84(1): 1-20.



Student interns pull, mow, and apply herbicide to invasive plants in the Preserve.

Photos by Adam Gundlach

Save the Date for the Preserve Bioblitz - September 26, 2026

What is a bioblitz? Think of a bioblitz as a nature scavenger hunt where scientists, naturalists, students, and community members come together to identify as many species as possible (plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms) within a particular area over a set period of time. They generate a snapshot of biodiversity that can be used by researchers and land managers.

After a successful first bioblitz in early June 2025, which generated a list of 985 species, we've decided to hold another on September 26, 2026! This time we want to "catch" species that we might find later in the season.

The bioblitz will run on September 26, 2026, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. You are welcome to participate at any time during the event! If you are looking for a more structured experience or to learn from others, please join one of our scheduled bioblitz walks and activities! We will update the bioblitz webpage as we solidify the schedule.

You can find more information on our [bioblitz webpage](#).

Arlene Koziol: Capturing Nature Through the Lens

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

For Arlene Koziol, photography is more than a hobby, it's a way of connecting with nature and contributing to conservation efforts. Arlene generously shares her photos with the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other conservation organizations to help us tell our conservation stories and promote the resources we protect.

Arlene's path to nature and bird photography began unexpectedly in her 40s, after a diagnosis of arthritis meant she had to stop playing sports. Looking for a new passion, Arlene upgraded her digital camera and ventured out to the Crabtree Nature Center near Chicago. A chance encounter with a group of seasoned birdwatchers led her to become their unofficial photographer—and a new student of birds and the environment. Through their guidance, she learned the importance of birds as bio-indicators of ecosystem health and the ethics of observing wildlife responsibly.



Arlene Koziol

The camera transformed Arlene's relationship with nature, encouraging her to slow down and become more aware of light, sound, and movement. Her patient approach has led to rich observations, especially of Eastern Bluebirds in the Preserve. She's witnessed firsthand the resilience of these birds, their struggle for survival, and the essential role biodiversity plays in their lives. Stories like the bluebird's recovery—thanks to citizen scientists—remind us of the power of community in conservation.



An Eastern Bluebird drives off a Tree Swallow from a nest box near Biocore Prairie.

When asked about favorite places to photograph in the Preserve, Arlene is hard-pressed to choose, though she's drawn to any place where she has access to water. Her approach to photography is meticulous and intentional. She always sets out with a plan, checking her equipment, researching her subjects, and paying close attention to time of day and weather conditions. This preparation allows her to take the shot during those magical, fleeting moments in the field.



Gotcha! A Green Heron catches a bluegill in University Bay.

Arlene shares her wisdom with aspiring photographers. Her top tip? Your alarm clock is your most important piece of equipment—get out early and stay late! She emphasizes patience, preparedness, understanding your subjects, and immersing yourself in nature rather than chasing social media trends. For those using camera phones, she suggests making the most of their features, like turning on the grid for better composition and tapping the screen to lock focus. And for all camera users...clean your lens!

Ultimately, Arlene believes that bird and nature photography is about much more than capturing a beautiful picture; it's about the entire experience and the lessons learned along the way. Her passion and dedication offer inspiration to anyone hoping to deepen their connection with the natural world—one photograph at a time.



A small flock of Tundra Swans takes off from Lake Mendota.

Meet Our New Student Natural Area Assistants!

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Addison, Ava, Elise, and Koi will work with Preserve staff this summer to support land management and maintenance activities, including invasive plant monitoring and control, trail clearing, vegetation surveying, and Picnic Point fire circle maintenance.

All the students wanted more hands-on experience managing and restoring Wisconsin plant communities and improving their plant identification skills.

Addison Beutler is a senior majoring in conservation biology and environmental studies. He has enjoyed learning to use the brush mower and brush saw and is learning when to remove invasive species such as garlic mustard, Canada thistle, and reed canary grass before they set seed. His favorite place in the Preserve is the Biocore Prairie and the Purple Martins living there. Addison said, "The birds' flight and chatter make them a must-see when you visit the Preserve!"

Ava Antonie is a senior studying landscape architecture. She wanted to learn more about land management and Wisconsin ecosystems to complement her landscape design experience. Ava's favorite spot in the Preserve is

Raymer's Cove in the winter when they can walk out on the ice. Ava also reported seeing their first Indigo Bunting in the Preserve recently.

Elise Dieter will be a junior in environmental science. She appreciates the hard work that goes into keeping the

Preserve healthy and safe for visitors. According to Elise, every day working in the Preserve is full of amazing moments, from discovering a fawn curled up in the grass, to seeing a Pileated Woodpecker from just 6 feet away. Her favorite place in the Preserve is the small beach at Raymer's Cove.

Koi Blenkush will be a junior majoring in conservation biology and environmental studies and earning a certificate in studio art. Koi enjoys working outside each day. His favorite spot in the Preserve is the Picnic Point

Marsh, where this spring he saw a newly hatched sandhill crane exploring the area around its nest with its parents. Koi also volunteers most Saturdays with the Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Observatory.



The Preserve's Student Natural Area Assistants (left to right: Ava, Addison, Koi, and Elise) were treated to a morning of limnological learning on Lake Mendota aboard the Limnos II research vessel.

Swingers Need not Apply

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

Few things are more enjoyable than lazing in a hammock on a breezy lakeshore. Then why prohibit it in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve?

It's all about safety and conservancy.

In 2016, the Preserve adopted its [Policy on the Prohibition of Slacklines, Hammocks, and other Recreational Devices](#).

The reasons were diverse:

- Over-arching UW-Madison rules.
- Safety from falling trees, limbs or branches.
- Protecting archaeological sites.
- Prohibition of off-trail use.
- Damage to trees or other foliage.
- Potential for injury from falls.

Additionally, there's a state law that applies. According to [Wisconsin State Statute UWS 18.12\(8\)](#):

No person may...mar, destroy or deface any...tree, vine, shrub, flower or other vegetation...or disfigure natural conditions...within the boundaries of any university lands....

Doing so is considered vandalism, and could be punishable by a fine.

Rope swings, slacklines, hammocks and related recreational devices can be incredibly enjoyable, but it's best to use them in areas with their use in mind. For example, City of Madison public parks (not conservation areas, like the Preserve) allow some or all of these activities.

Happy swinging!

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



Hammocks can be used at designated campus hammock locations, like the Hammock Garden north of Kronshage Hall.



FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

2026 Summer Field Trips

Tour the Class of 1918 Marsh

Sunday July 26 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

John Magnuson will guide us around and through the Marsh and detail the biological diversity and hydrological history of this outstanding gem of environmental restoration. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance.

iNaturalist & Other Apps for Use in Bioblitzes

Sunday August 9 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Christopher Warneke, a plant ecologist and postdoc with the Damschen Lab, will demonstrate phone apps for use in the Preserve's September 26 Bioblitz. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance. Bring your smart phone.

Effigy Mounds of Picnic Point

Sunday August 23 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Join State Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough for a fascinating walk about effigy mounds at the Preserve and other local Native American history, including discoveries of ancient canoes, one dating back 5,000 years. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance.

Monarch Migration

Sunday September 13 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Join Biocore instructor Seth McGee for a hands-on field trip to explore the world of migrating monarchs! You'll learn how to safely catch and tag butterflies as part of a research initiative that tracks their incredible journey to Mexico. We'll also dive into monarch natural history, ecology, and conservation and share tips for turning your yard into a monarch-friendly ecosystem. This event is open to all ages and will entail walking on narrow trails through the tallgrass prairie. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance.

Free weekend parking is available in UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Dr) and UW Lot 60 (801 Walnut St)

NOTE:

Parking and Preserve access may be affected by construction starting in September. Please visit the Preserve website at lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu for updates closer to the event.

Scout Builds Benches for Gardens

By Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

The Eagle Heights Community Gardens recently received a donation of four Leopold-style benches from high school student Freddy Berkelman as part of his Eagle Scout service project. Two benches were placed in the shady "tree island" at Eagle Heights Gardens, and two next to the fruit trees on the east edge of the University Gardens. Freddy recruited fellow scouts to help him construct the benches this spring and delivered them to the Preserve on May 3rd. Garden registrar Lily Hammel thanked Freddy for his time and thoughtful donation to the community, adding, "Many gardeners will appreciate a shady place to rest while working in their plots."



Freddy (in light colored sweatshirt) with fellow scouts after delivering new benches to gardens.

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Lakeshore Nature Preserve
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