



Director's Note

By Brad Herrick, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

As predictable as shortened days, cooler weather, and the increased hustle and bustle of campus life with returning students, the fall season also represents familiar changes in land management, education, and outreach opportunities at the Preserve. In the field, seed collection, prescribed fire plans, and invasive tree and shrub removal projects are top of mind. Faculty inquire about teaching and research opportunities, and Preserve staff provide guest lectures and field trips for classes. We welcome new students and engage with the campus community at events like Sustain-a-Bash and the Baake Block Party, as well as hosting numerous student organizations at restoration work parties.

This fall, we get to highlight a first for the Preserve: the beginning phase of construction for our new home and visitor space, the Frautschi Center! Starting this month, Findorff will be setting up shop near the main entrance to Picnic Point, prepping for the redesign of the parking lot (Lot 130) and a portion of University Bay Dr. Over the next several months, visitors to this part of the Preserve will encounter construction fences, heavy equipment, increased noise, slower traffic patterns, and reduced parking. We apologize for this inconvenience! Please visit our Frautschi Center webpage for updates and ways to support the project.

Thank you for supporting the Lakeshore Nature Preserve!



Preserve intern Ava Antonie invites Bucky to test his tree knowledge alongside students at the Sustain-A-Bash Showcase.

Your Future Gift, the Future of the Preserve

For many supporters, a gift to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is both a reflection of their personal connection to this special place and an investment in its future. Including the Preserve in an estate plan is a meaningful way to support its long-term stewardship and help ensure it remains available for future generations.

If you are considering a future gift to the Preserve as part of your estate plans, we would be happy to answer questions, share sample bequest language, and help you explore options that align with your goals. Estate gifts are non-binding, can be updated or changed at any time, and may be kept anonymous if you wish.

Have you already included the Preserve in your estate plans? Please let us know! Sharing your intention allows us to express our gratitude and helps us better under-

stand and celebrate the growing community of supporters who are investing in the Preserve's future.

Did you know? Estate gifts with an estimated value of \$25,000 or more to the Frautschi Fund for the Future will be recognized on the contributor wall in the new center. If you are looking for a meaningful way to support the long-term care and stewardship of the Preserve, a future gift to this important project may be a great option.

Interested in learning more? Please get in touch with Brad Herrick (bradley.herrick@wisc.edu) at the Preserve or Shannon Ghery (shannon.ghery@supportuw.org) at the UW Foundation. You can also visit the UW Foundation Gift Planning website.



Friends Member and UW Extension Specialist featured on Nature's Notebook Website

UCLA student Kishan Talati profiled Sky Hershberger, Friends member and Forestry Communications Specialist at UW–Madison Extension, whose regular observations of maple trees in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for Nature's Notebook have deepened their connection to nature. Through Sky's story, we see how slowing down to observe the natural world can foster personal growth, environmental awareness, and a sense of place. [Read the article here.](#)

Notice of Upcoming Trail Changes

The 2023 master plan identified redundant trails in the Preserve that contribute to habitat fragmentation. In the coming months, two trail portions in the Preserve's Frautschi Point Woods will be retired, with the remaining portions connected by a new short east-west trail segment from the Big Oak to Second Point Woods. Several large hazard trees continue to impact the segments being retired along the gully trail. The remaining trails will continue to allow visitors access to the shady canopy, wildflowers, and relative seclusion of Frautschi Point and Second Point Woods. Signs will be posted when the trails are closed; please use alternate routes.



Red lines = Trails that will be retired; Green line = New connecting trail

SERUWM Active in the Preserve and on Campus

By Sophia Krupka, SERUWM Co-President and Biological Systems Engineering and Science Communication Undergraduate Student

SER, the Society for Ecological Restoration, is a professional organization dedicated to advancing research, applications, and policies on ecological restoration. Restoration ecology has roots in Madison. In addition to his famous home-
stead, Aldo Leopold, the father of restoration ecology, also cultivated native plant communities at the UW Arboretum, according to its history page.

UW-Madison is home to a variety of programs in the life sciences, many of which overlap with ecology, but gaps in the presence of restoration ecology at the University remain. There is no undergraduate program for restoration ecology. Restoration ecology is also a discipline that is as much a science as it is a practice and skill, meaning experiences outside the classroom are important to learn it fully. As a Madison student interested in ecology, I was eager to gain those experiences and, serendipitously, was at the Fall 2024 Sustainability Symposium when Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director Brad Herrick announced his intention to start a chapter here.

The following fall, my co-presidents, Devin Guthrie and Pippi Johnson, and I officially started Madison's Society for Ecological Restoration student chapter, SERUWM, with Brad as our advisor. We have since hosted guest speakers, joined the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for work parties, and worked with the Preserve to set up our own small plot on its property, which we will begin taking a more active

role in restoring. We are also in the process of proposing a native plant garden in front of Birge Hall with the help of UW's Green Fund in an effort to incorporate more native plants into the campus landscape.

Our members are largely undergraduate students, but other members of the campus community are welcome. If you'd like to follow along to see what we do next, feel free to follow us on Instagram [@ser.uwmadison](#) or email me at skrupka@wisc.edu to join our email list.



SERUWM members gather in Muir Woods to discuss an ecological restoration project.

Student Engagement Grant Supports Invasive Plant Education and Research

By Matthew Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator, Dept of Plant and Agroecosystems Sciences

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Student Engagement Grant funds allowed us to hire a student invasive plant technician in summer 2025 to lead monitoring and research in the Preserve while supporting Dr Mark Renz's summer course, Agronomy 375: Invasive Plant Identification and Management. Students learned to identify and report invasive species by creating 80 new invasive plant records in EDDMapS, an industry-standard database for invasive species management. In this way, the Preserve became a hands-on classroom for invasive plant management, where students practiced real-world monitoring and data collection.

Students also tested an herbicide-free buckthorn control method in the Preserve—critical period cutting, a method that repeatedly cuts and starves a plant of its stored root energy—with the Invasive Plant Technician supporting all aspects of the project. In spring 2025, students launched the critical period cutting research at Picnic Point, rating and cutting 40 buckthorn plants in four size classes. They also measured canopy openness to assess regrowth potential. That fall, students returned to strip plant regrowth and rate plant vigor on a 0-10 scale. Results showed larger buckthorns regrew more vigorously, while light penetration had little effect. The project continued in 2026. This fall, we will assess final buckthorn plant mortality after two growing seasons.



Renz Lab student invasive plant technician Zach marks a common buckthorn plant for critical period cutting in the Preserve.

The Renz Lab shares more information about Critical Period Cutting on their [current research projects web-page](#), including a detailed factsheet from the Friends of the Mississippi River.

Why are there soldiers in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve?

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

The Morrill Act of 1862 mandated that land grant colleges – including the young University of Wisconsin – include military training. Formal instruction began in Madison in 1868, and continues to this day with three on-campus Reserve Officers' Training Corps: [Army](#), [Air Force](#), and [Navy/Marine Corps](#).

The United States [Army ROTC Badger Battalion](#) makes use of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other nearby areas as part of their military science training. Their 'lab work' includes drills and other military maneuvers, primarily near Frautschi Point and the University Bay athletic fields. So, it's not unusual to come across a group of camouflage-clad future Army officers while visiting those areas during the school year.

When training is in session, the battalion typically posts signage to inform Preserve visitors of their activity. Any weaponry used for training are either replicas or are disabled for training purposes. No live ammunition is used or allowed.

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



ROTC students volunteer in the Preserve too! A group of Naval ROTC midshipmen pose after spending a morning cutting invasive plants.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

2026 Fall Field Trips

Sky Hershberger

Fascinating Fungi

Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Explore and compare with Marie Trest the wide variety of fall fungi fruiting in the Preserve.

Bat Research in Vietnam

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 7:00 to 8:15 pm

Join us for this Indoor Expedition as grad student Makeela Magomolla shares sagas and insights from her June 2026 research trek in Vietnam. Room 1360 Genetics Biotech Center, 425 Henry Mall.

Poetry in the Preserve

Sunday, October 25, 2026 - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Share your favorite verses & rhymes as we peruse the autumnal prairies & woods with our poet laureate Paul Noeldner.

Bat Acoustic Walk

Friday, October 30, 2026 - 6:15 to 7:45 pm

Join the UW's Bat Brigade for a bat walk at dusk. Learn

about bat conservation, acoustic surveying, and the important ecological roles bats play in Wisconsin.

Early Fall Migrating Birds

Sunday, November 8, 2026 - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Join Jackie Edmunds & colleagues from the Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Observatory in scanning the skies, branches and grasslands for avian visitors passing through the Preserve.

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.

Save the Date: Fill the Hill Fundraiser

Starting at 5PM on Oct. 1, every gift the Lakeshore Nature Preserve receives will address our most pressing needs—erosion control, invasive plant removal, and native plant restoration—plus provide hands-on learning opportunities for UW students.

The flamingos can't land without you!

[UWFLAMINGOS.COM](https://uwflamingos.com)

UW STUDENT THRIVE OUTSIDE CHALLENGE

University Health Services
STUDENT AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

10 challenges.
Complete 6.
Claim your picnic
blanket prize.

SEP 18 — OCT 23

Register now!
www.uhs.wisc.edu

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