



PRESERVE!

Volume 5, Number 2, Spring 2006

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation and Stewardship of our Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies and Shorelines

Bill Cronon to Speak about Caring for the Preserve on April 11

Now that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan is complete, what is going to happen next? What projects are priorities? What can we do to help?

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is honored to have Bill Cronon, internationally distinguished environmental historian and superb lecturer, speak at their Annual Meeting at 7 PM April 11, 2006, in the McKay Center of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Bill's presentation, "Caring for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve: A Call to Stewardship," will address the next steps in the restoration of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Members of the Friends and the Preserve Committee are invited and encouraged to attend and to bring guests interested in the Preserve.

Bill Cronon

Bill Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas Research Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), studies American environmental history and the history of the American West. His ongoing commitment to understanding human interactions with the natural world is demonstrated through his teaching, scholarly articles, books, and university service. Bill is a distinguished teacher and a renowned scholar. His books include *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England* and *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. He has edited collected volumes, including *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* and is currently writing a book entitled *Saving Nature in Time: The Past and the Future of Environmentalism*.

Bill Cronon brings his knowledge of human interactions with the environment to his service on the UW's Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee. He ensured that cultural and social aspects were incorporated into the just completed Preserve Master Plan (see page 3). He will now use his expertise to begin leading the longer and more complicated process of realizing the vision of the plan.

Caring for the Land

Because many members of the Friends will already have seen presentations about the new master plan by the time of the April meeting, Bill will spend only a portion of his talk reviewing the recommendations of the report and the challenges it seeks to address. He'll spend at least as much time on the underlying principles that the master plan has sought to fulfill, and suggest ways in which those principles can best be enacted as we now move forward with implementation of the report. His core message will be about the challenge of stewardship, which involves far more than just removing invasive species, preventing erosion, redesigning trails, putting up new signs, and all the other concrete steps proposed in different parts of the master plan.

Bill believes that a place like the Lakeshore Nature Preserve expresses core values of the community that protects it. One of the most important tasks of stewardship is thus to make sure that these core values are sustained in the human beings who use and care for the place. If this is true, then the Preserve itself becomes an important vehicle for reproducing the very values that enable it to survive and flourish in an urban environment where one might not otherwise expect such a place to exist. The health of the Preserve reflects our own commitment to core conservation values.

At the heart of Bill's talk is a very simple question: How can we best persuade members of the UW and Madison communities that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a precious treasure that deserves their care—and their love?

Elections and Refreshments

A brief Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve business meeting will be held. Members of the Friends will elect five Board members. Please see page 6 for election details.

Join us after Bill Cronon's exciting presentation for refreshments and to meet the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board.

**Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve**
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Friends of the Preserve

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

We Welcome Submissions to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter and Web Site

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Lakeshore Nature Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Web Site. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenehan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to rlehan@charter.net. To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by June 23, 2006. The submission deadline is July 14.

Spring and Summer Field Trips

Additional Field Trips may be posted on the
Friends of the Preserve Web Site: waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve

Mammal Meanderings

April 22 (Saturday) 8:30-11:00 AM

Come meander with us along the trails on Picnic Point to search for mammal treasures - scat, houses, tracks! If we're lucky, we'll also get to observe some of the mammals leaving such treasures.

Leader: Rebecca Christoffel (259-9209). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Edible and Medicinal Plants of Spring

April 30 (Sunday) 1:00-3:00 PM

To the Ojibwa Indians and other tribes, every plant had a use or significance, and that knowledge was passed from generation to generation. Come learn how plants were and still are used for food, medicine, love charms, dyes, and crafts.

Leader: David Eagan (249-0409). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Wetland Appreciation

May 6 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Develop an appreciation of the freshwater communities centered on the Class of 1918 Marsh -- birds, insects, plants, plankton, and what ever shows up. Be prepared to wade into shallow water (barn boots, old shoes, or sandals that won't come off in mud). We will provide some sampling gear. We will also look for effects of watershed land use on the marsh. Meet at the Class of 1918 Marsh Parking Lot (across University Bay Drive from the Picnic Point Parking Lot).

Leaders: Stanley (262-6395) and Ginny Dodson.

Birding Picnic Point

May 7 (Sunday) 7:30-10:30 AM

Join us to look for migrant and resident birds. Picnic Point is a migrant trap in bad weather and can produce spectacular collections of migrants. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet at the 1918 Marsh Parking Lot.

Leaders: Dan Doeppers and Roma Lenehan (238-5406).

Warbler and Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 10 (Wednesday) 7:00-9:30 AM (with the possibility of extending)

While we will concentrate on seeing warblers through the leaves, we will look for any spring migrants.

Leader: Roma Lenehan (238-5406). Meet at the Frautschi Point Entrance.

Shoreline Vegetation and Lake Mendota Health

May 20 (Saturday) 1:00-3:00 PM

Come learn how the natural communities of the Preserve contribute to the health of Lake Mendota. Find out about the changes in Lake ice cover over the years. Meet at the Limnology Parking Lot No.8. Leader: John Magnuson (263-3264).

Historical Landscapes of Frautschi Point

May 21 (Sunday) 2:00-4:00 PM

Join our search for nearly lost clues left on the landscape by the people who have called this prominent lakeshore site their home—from Native Americans a thousand years ago to the 19th century Stevens and Jackson families.

Leader: Daniel Einstein (265-3417). Meet at the Frautschi Point Entrance.

Butterflies and Dragonflies

July 15 (Saturday) 10 AM -12 Noon

Join us in a search for pretty things with wings (including an occasional bird). Bring your binoculars. Co-sponsored by Madison Audubon Society.

Leader: Edgar Spalding (265-5294). Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Beyond the Master Plan

by Bill Cronon

This spring sees the completion of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan after more than two years of hard work by many people. The plan can now be obtained, along with summary documents and individual maps, from the Preserve website (www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu). I hope all readers of this column will download and read the full document for themselves, so I won't summarize it here. Instead, I would like in this column to discuss two equally important changes that have not received as much attention as the Master Plan, but that are just as important for the future of the Preserve.

A New Management Team

In January, UW-Madison's Division of Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) adopted a new management structure that promises to transform the way the university cares for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. By redefining Cathie Bruner's position and reassigning Daniel Einstein to work full-time for the Preserve—creating two co-equal managers where previously there has been only one—FPM has substantially increased the human resources available to care for and improve the Preserve.

Cathie Bruner—who has worked tirelessly for the past half decade as the sole UW-Madison staff member assigned full-time to the Preserve—has received a promotion and a new title: "Preserve Field Manager." She now has primary responsibility for providing on-the-ground stewardship, maintenance, and oversight of various educational and recreational activities. She will continue to oversee control of invasive species, work on native plant restoration, address erosion problems, and work with the Friends to coordinate volunteer efforts—but she will now do so aided by the strategic vision of the Master Plan, implementing its recommendations and management principles on a day-to-day basis.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Daniel Einstein as the new "Preserve Program Manager." Daniel brings a wealth of environmental management experience to his new position, having led UW-Madison programs for recycling, tree inventory and protection, campus ecology research, and, most recently, the Campus Cultural Landscape Plan. (For the fine collection of campus landscape images he has assembled on-line, including many in the Preserve, see <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/UW/subcollections/UW/CulturalLandAbout.shtml>). At the Preserve, Daniel will coordinate outreach efforts involving tours, signage, and website design; help lead development efforts to

raise new funds for the Preserve; work on cultural landscapes and archaeological resources; and provide office administrative support.

Although the general division of labor between the two positions is clear, Cathie and Daniel are committed to working as a team and will in fact share responsibilities for much of what goes on in the Preserve. Our goal in establishing this new staffing arrangement—for which we owe a large debt of thanks to Alan Fish, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Management—is to provide the human resources and leadership to take the Preserve to a new level. Without such resources, the Master Plan would remain just a bunch of pretty maps floating as PDF files in the virtual space of the World Wide Web.

The Preserve Stewardship Fund

It's wonderful to have this new management team and finally to have a master plan. With new leaders, a new vision, and a new institutional commitment to stewardship, we can at last make real progress in caring for and improving the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

But all of this will come to naught if we don't have the funds to help Cathie and Daniel do their work. In the current fiscal environment, we cannot count on the state budget to provide the funds needed for all we hope to accomplish. And so one of our most important initiatives from this point on will be a much more serious and sustained effort at fundraising. Daniel Einstein will play a key role in that effort, as will the new environmental development director that the UW Foundation is now recruiting.

But so will you and I. Henceforth, we all need to make a more serious effort to encourage donations to the UW Foundation's new "Preserve Stewardship Fund"—and to give generously to that fund ourselves. Members of the Friends have been immensely helpful in the past helping raise funds that have made a real difference in addressing problems and enhancing the quality of the Preserve. In the future, we need all to work together to remind everyone who cares about the Preserve how much we need their contributions—of volunteer time, of advocacy, and yes, of money—if the Preserve is finally to receive the care we know it needs.

I wrote my first check to the Stewardship Fund at the end of December, and I intend to keep doing so for the rest of my life. I hope you will do the same. Please send your contributions to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Stewardship Fund, UW Foundation, 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI, 53726

Eagles at Frautschi Point

by Glenda Denniston

Bald Eagles in the Preserve

The warm winter of 2005-6, with its late freeze and early breakup of lake ice, has given visitors to Frautschi Point a special treat. With the exception of about two weeks in January, there have been almost daily sightings of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) along the north edge of the Preserve, mostly at Frautschi Point but also near Biocore Prairie and in Eagle Heights Woods. Sometimes three eagles are in the area at the same time -- two mature adults and one immature. They have regular perches high in shoreline trees, where they wait silently, sometimes for hours, until they see some kind of prey, generally fish. Then they glide down to open water, sometimes just a crack in the ice, grab the fish with their talons, and either eat it on the spot or carry it off to a tree perch.

Return from Near Oblivion

Bald Eagle populations declined drastically due to the heavy use of organochlorine pesticides in the 1950s. These pesticides were taken up by animals and accumulated in predators when they ate their prey. This resulted in thin-shelled eggs and poor breeding success of birds high in the food chain. By 1967, Bald Eagle numbers were so low that the species was declared "endangered" in the United States. Since the pesticide DDT was banned in 1972, the eagle population has steadily increased. During the past ten years, especially in mild winters, they have been abundant along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and relatively common inland, especially around rivers and lakes.



Adult Bald Eagle in Oak near Frautschi Point (G.Denniston)

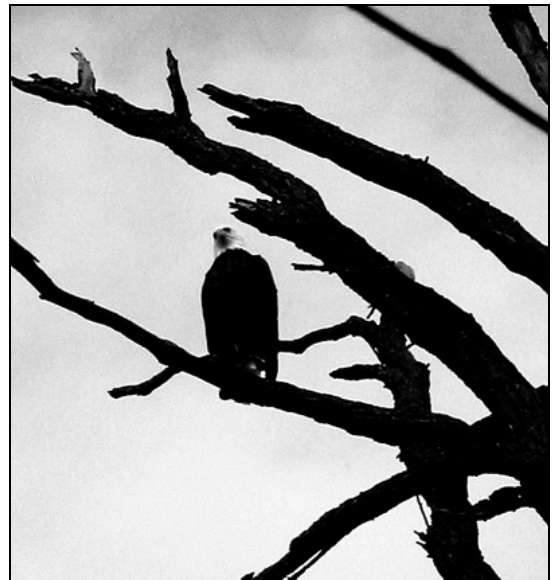
Behavior of Local Wintering Eagles

Madison Bald Eagles are said to visit from their haunts along the Wisconsin River, flying here during

the day and returning to their river sites at night. In at least one instance, however, they were photographed at twilight in an oak on Frautschi Point. They are not normally nocturnal flyers. They are often seen very early in the morning, as well as late in the afternoon. Probably they sometimes sleep in the Preserve.

Eagles are opportunists when it comes to eating. By preference they are fish-eaters, but they also kill rabbits, waterfowl and other birds and mammals. When the lake is frozen and food is scarce they resort to eating carrion, often in the form of roadkill. They are known for piracy, an especially important means of obtaining food for immature Bald Eagles (Fisher, D., "Piracy Behavior of Wintering Bald Eagles," *The Condor*, 1985).

Wayne Hayes, a regular walker in the Preserve, recalls seeing eagles from his Eagle Heights apartment (number 610) during the five years he lived there as a graduate student (until 2002). He stated that they would sit quietly in one of the big maples outside his window and then swoop down to kill a rabbit on the lawn. They generally ate their prey on the spot. Usually they caught rabbits, though once one killed a young skunk.



G. Denniston

Favorite Eagle Perch: Bur Oak Snag near Lake Mendota

Viewing Eagles at the Preserve

To observe eagles in the Preserve, move slowly and silently and do not look directly at them. Give them plenty of space – they are very wary of humans and have amazing vision. Please report sightings and behavioral observations on the Bird Sightings Board near the entrance to Picnic Point. For more information about the lives of Bald Eagles, see Paul A. Johnsgard's *Hawks, Eagles & Falcons of North America*.

A Transitional Year for the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

The past year was a year of great changes. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan was completed. During planning several important things happened. The University of Wisconsin governing Committee (now called the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee) changed the name of the area to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to increase long-term name recognition. As a result, the Friends changed our name to Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We changed the name of our newsletter from *FCNA News* to *PRESERVE!* Several new areas, including Big Woods, were incorporated into the Preserve. Facilities Planning and Management assigned a second staff member, Daniel Einstein, to the Preserve as Program Manager. This will allow Cathie Bruner, Field Manager, more time to work with restoration, education, and volunteers.

The Friends of the Preserve Web Site (waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve) was reorganized using drop down menus for easier use.

The Friends also continued their education, stewardship, advocacy, and fund raising efforts with the help of many volunteers.

Education

Our successful Annual Meeting featured George Christiansen and Daniel Einstein who spoke about the cultural landscape history of the Preserve. George showed examples of the many Native American archaeological artifacts found in the Preserve. Daniel

showed historical photographs from the new University of Wisconsin historical image library.

The Friends of the Preserve sponsored 14 field trips covering topics ranging from the Anagama kiln to geology, ecology, and history.

Stewardship

Volunteers worked throughout the Preserve, helping the management where they were needed.

- Bill's Woods - Friends of the Preserve volunteers continued to remove invasive species and replace them with thousands of native plants and shrubs.
- Frautschi Point – The Preserve Management, Friends volunteers, service learning students, and summer staff worked together to control invasive species. A generous gift from the Frautschi family paid for native woodland plants planted along the Big Oak Trail.
- Muir Woods – Volunteers from the Friends helped Rebecca Kagle and her volunteers build trails and remove invasive species in Muir Woods as part of the Muir Woods Project (see Fall 2005 *FCNA News*, page 3, for project details).
- Tent Colony Woods (formerly North Shore Woods) – Friends volunteers continued to remove invasive species in preparation for the full scale restoration of the woods. This restoration will be paid for with funds from the Class of 1955.
- Garlic Mustard – At the Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon, organized by Preserve Management and the Friends of the Preserve, 16 energetic volunteers pulled hundreds of Garlic Mustard plants and filled fifty 35-gallon bags with Garlic Mustard. Donors pledged money for each bag, raising \$1435 for invasive species removal.

Advocacy and Fund Raising

In this period of transition, we focused on increasing name recognition under our new name, Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Our members again generously supported us. People were especially generous with their memorial gifts, giving \$6710. We also received \$5250 in unrestricted donations and \$610 to support restoration.

Bright Future

Now that the Master Plan is completed, we can proceed to restore the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We will need your help – your support, knowledge, volunteer labor, and money. Come hear the Chair of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Bill Cronon, on April 11 (page 1) and learn about the next steps. Join our volunteers planting and controlling invasive species (page 10). Learn about the Preserve through our field trips (page 2). We look forward to meeting you – it takes a community to save an urban natural area.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2005 Financial Report	
Balance of as 1/1/05	\$47,389
Income	
Memberships	\$10,230
Gifts	5,250
Memorials	6,710
Planting Projects	610
Garlic Mustard Pledges	1,435
Note Cards	580
Interest	1,089
Total Income	\$25,904
Expenses	
Planting Projects	\$ 3,213
Invasive Plant Control (incl. GM Pledges)	6,435
Membership Expenses	229
Newsletter	1,072
Annual Meeting	450
Publicity and Web Site	494
Picnic Point Maintenance	1,404
Note Cards	500
General Expenses	397
Total Expenses	\$14,194
Balance as of 12/31/05	\$59,099

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Annual Meeting: April 11, 2006

All current Friends of the Preserve members are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting at 7 PM at the McKay Center of the UW Arboretum.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Election

The Nomination Committee, Blair Mathews (Chair), Bill Muehl, and Ann Burgess, recommend the following slate for election to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board. Each newly elected Board member will serve three years on the Friends of the Preserve Board. Three of the nominees are founding members of the Board running for their second full term on the Board: Richard McCoy, William Muehl, and Susan Slapnick. In addition, the Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend two long-time Friends of the Preserve members to the Board: Ann Burgess and Lisa Munro. The election of these five people will increase the Board size to fourteen.

Ann Burgess

Ann, a biologist, led the UW–Madison Biocore Program and launched the Biocore Prairie restoration with Board member Curt Caslavka. She served on the task force that set up the Campus Natural Areas Committee and was subsequently appointed to the Committee. She was a member of the biological subcommittee and helped write the Preserve biological plan that became a significant component of the Master Plan. After her retirement, Ann continued her involvement in the Preserve, working on trails, creating informational signs, and assisting Preserve Field Manager Cathie Bruner with permits and projects. In 2003 she served as the Field Trip Chair for the Friends of the Preserve. She helped to organize the successful 2005 Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon. Ann is deeply committed to this special place and looks forward to supporting the collaboration between the Friends and the Preserve Committee.

Richard McCoy

Dick spent thirty years with the University, earning four UW degrees and spending more than twenty years in teaching and administration. He is completing his second year as President of the Friends. He previously served as Vice President. His successful work with the Alumni Association has led several UW classes to choose to give money to the Preserve for their anniversary Class Gifts. Dick values the Preserve as a vital part of the campus and community for research, study, enjoyment of nature and as a place for solitude.

William Muehl

Bill has done extensive work in the Preserve, including helping with burn management. He served as co-chair of the Volunteer Committee. He wants to maintain and protect the diverse ecosystem of the Preserve. Bill is the Treasurer-Elect of the Friends. He also serves on the Board of the Friends of the Arboretum. Bill has worked on natural area restoration with the Dane County Parks system as a volunteer and employee leading volunteer fieldwork.

Lisa Munro

Lisa has had a close tie to the Preserve. She is heartened by the growing interest in preserving and protecting this special campus area. She has been a long time supporter of local, regional and national environmental organizations. She currently sits on the Shorewood Village ad hoc “Dark Sky” Committee. Lisa recently retired from UW–Madison having served as the Director of the Adult Career and Educational Counseling Center and as a career counselor.

Susan Slapnick

For the past 5 years, Susan has served as web master for the rapidly evolving Friends of the Preserve Web Site. She has recently completed the conversion of this Site to Dreamweaver, adding drop down menus and improving the navigability of the Site. Since her recent retirement from the UW, she has spent her free time restoring prairies and savannas, especially at Goose Pond and Pleasant Valley Conservancy. She has extensive experience in the restoration of Wisconsin native landscapes. Susan enjoys working with people concerned with the integrity of our wild places on campus.

Around the Preserve

Lakeshore Path Update

As part of the Muir Woods and Lakeshore Path Project, invasive shrubs were removed by the Grounds Department at selected spots along the trail, recreating views of the Bay that had become covered with non-native shrubs. Native vegetation will be planted in many of these areas. In addition, some shoreline stabilization will occur. Please stay on the Path—walking off the trail down to the lake compacts the soil, increases erosion, and kills any new plantings.

Service Learning

Students regularly volunteer in the Preserve as part of a service requirement in a class. Friends volunteers often work with them, teaching them about woodland ecology, invasive species, and restoration. These students spend hours building trails, removing invasive species, and caring for the Preserve. We would like to thank the students, their professors who recommended service in the Preserve, and the people who work with the students. Thank you all!

Area Name Changes

As part of the master planning, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee changed several Preserve area names. North Shore Woods, which housed the historic UW Tent Colony from 1912 to 1962, is now Tent Colony Woods. The cove with a parking area off Lake Mendota Drive in Tent Colony Woods is now Raymer's Cove. George Raymer, who owned the farm where the Eagle Heights Apartments are now, in 1902 donated this beautiful cove to the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive. The Committee also named the woodland near Willow Creek Willow Creek Woods. Now that the area located between Eagle Heights Apartments and University Houses has been incorporated into the Preserve, the Committee officially named it Big Woods.

Preserve Christmas Bird Count Results

Despite the earlier cold weather, 42 species were found in the Picnic Point sector of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count on December 17, 2005. A single late Loon, 149 Tundra Swans, 2 American Wigeon, and 462 Coots lingered. Despite the partially frozen lake, many diving ducks were found including 63 Canvasbacks, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 6 Lesser Scaup, 2 Bufflehead, 28 Common Goldeneye, 2 Ruddy Ducks, 4 Hooded and 158 Common Mergansers. Six Bald Eagles were found in the area (see page 4). One Belted Kingfisher, 4 Flickers, 9 Brown Creepers, 3 Cedar Waxwings, 43 Robins, 17 Song Sparrows, and 5 White-throated Sparrows were also found.

Announcements

Friends Web Site Update

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Web Site has a new look and a new address (waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve). The new site has drop down menus making it easier to locate material on our web site. Please see the web site for work party schedule information and additional field trips. We continue to expand the site, including adding Preserve photographs and other material. Thanks to the help of the Alumni Association, soon people will be able to renew their membership and give money on line.

New Preserve Committee Web Site

The Preserve has a new web site created by Daniel Einstein (www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu). This site has the new Preserve Master Plan as well as maps and photographs. The Preserve Web Site will continue to expand and evolve over the next few months, so keep checking this exciting site!

Arboretum Native Plant Sale May 13, 2006

The Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 13, 2006, from 9 AM to 2 PM at the wildflower tent near the UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center. Over 100 species of woodland flowers, prairie plants, ferns and native shrubs will be for sale. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Plants are native to the area and propagated (not collected from the wild). Native trees, shrubs, and mixes of prairie plants may be pre-ordered through March 17 (available by calling 608-263-7760 or www.uwarboretum.org).

Preserve Note Cards Available

Mixed note card sets with five beautiful photographs of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve by Glenda Denniston will be available at the April 11 Friends of the Preserve Annual Meeting. Each set of 5 different note cards costs \$5.

Bird Sightings Board

Please record your birds on the Bird Sightings Board (by the driving entrance to Picnic Point, at the base of the Bill's Woods restoration, behind the exercise board). This allows other birders, including ornithology students, to know what birds are in the area. Please continue to record sightings throughout the season – not everyone is lucky enough to see the first migrant!

Update Your Email Address

Please keep your email address up to date so that the Friends of the Preserve can send you announcements or event changes. Send your name and email address to rlenehan@charter.net or write it on your renewal card.

“Operation Goodwill Chopping”: A Photo Essay

by Glenda Denniston

“Operation Goodwill Chopping”

The few passersby were startled to see almost 60 Army ROTC cadets, most in camouflage uniform, hard at work cutting and hauling logs and building trails at the edge of the big field across from the Eagle Heights Community Gardens on November 19, 2005, in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. What was going on?

The cadets, along with a few Navy cadets, were there under the supervision of LTC John Bechtol and Cathie Bruner, Field Manager of the Preserve.



Arrival at the Staging Area (G.Denniston)

Preparation

The work party was a carefully planned training exercise for the ROTC and a wonderful opportunity for the Preserve. Two cadets were given the mission of



Explanation of the Day’s Mission (G.Denniston)

clearing invasive trees from a gully and working on erosion control. They, together with Preserve management personnel, planned the operation and carried it out flawlessly.

The day before the event, LTC Bechtol and two ROTC faculty who had forestry training removed large and dangerous trees in the area. Invasive trees and shrubs were marked with spray paint.



ROTC Cadets Removing Cut Logs from the Gully (C.Bruner)

A Win-Win Success Story

“Operation Goodwill Chopping” was an amazing success. It provided a training opportunity for the ROTC, fostered good will between Preserve personnel and the Campus Military, and resulted in the accomplishment of a major management task.



Cadets Hauling Wood Chips for Trails in Makeshift “Wheelbarrow” (C. Bruner)

Invasive Plants in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

by Roma Lenehan

Definition

“Invasive Plants are non-indigenous species or strains that become established in natural communities and wild areas, replacing native vegetation” (Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin Web Site).

Why Should We Care about Invasive Plants?

Students, researchers, and the public come to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to learn, study, and enjoy nature. Invasive non-native plant species threaten natural areas and restoration efforts. They invade natural areas, killing existing native plants and creating a simplified ecosystem that will not support a diverse set of native animals. They also invade restorations, preventing the establishment of native plants. Many of these invasive plants increase erosion by killing native ground level plants that normally hold soil.

Many invasive plants have become established in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve including:

- Garlic Mustard, a ground layer plant, kills native woodland wildflowers by shading them.
- Buckthorn and Honeysuckle, shrubs that form brushy thickets, shade out understory plants, create a good home for Garlic Mustard, and increase erosion.
- Burdock, a plant with burs, catches human clothing and sometimes traps and kills bats and birds.
- Canada Thistle, a particularly persistent and aggressive plant, invades open areas.

Recognize and Manage Invasive Plants

Many organizations have web sites to help people learn about invasive plants including:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Invasive Species: Plants - www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.htm

- Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin - www.ipaw.org
- DNR Invasive Species of the Future - www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/futureplants/

How You Can Help Control Invasive Plants

Volunteer to help remove invasive plants in the Preserve (see box below and page 10). Give money to help control invasive plants. Remove invasive plants in your own yard. Clean your shoes before you enter the Preserve so that you will not introduce seeds from other areas. Educate yourself about the emerging invasive plants and help control them in your neighborhood (see the last web site above).

Advantages of Controlling Invasive Plants

Controlling invasive non-native plant species in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve will help preserve natural plant and animal diversity and make the area more useful for research and environmental education. Controlling these plants will support efforts to establish native plants on the shorelines, decreasing erosion and stormwater runoff and improving Lake Mendota water quality. Controlling invasive plants will preserve the beauty of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for future generations.

Garlic Mustard Control

- When Garlic Mustard is pulled, be sure to get the root – broken off plants resprout and bloom later.
- Bag and landfill all of your Garlic Mustard because second year plants will bloom and produce seeds even if they are pulled.
- Volunteers pull Garlic Mustard frequently in the Preserve from mid-April thru mid-June. Contact Cathie Bruner (cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu or 265-9275) to participate.

Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name _____ Student \$10
Address _____ Individual \$20
City, State _____ Zip Code _____ Household \$35
Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____ Steward \$50
 Please send me information about how to volunteer Patron \$100
(Include your email address and telephone number if you would like to volunteer) Other _____

Mail your check payable to Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with this form to:

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve P.O. Box 55056 Madison, WI 53705

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

We Need Your Help!

The Preserve Needs Volunteer Help

A natural area in an urban setting does not stay "wild" without help. Without constant vigilance, a natural area becomes overgrown with invasive plants and loses its natural biological diversity (see page 9).

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve continues to need volunteers. Helpers of all skill levels are needed. Your expertise will grow as you work.

What Have Volunteers Been Doing?

Volunteers from the Friends, service learning students, and Preserve staff have planted thousands of native shrubs, ferns and flowers in Bill's Woods and elsewhere in the Preserve, notably Frautschi Point. Many of these plantings are beginning to spread naturally. We also divide and spread them.

When the Friends receive our large spring plant orders, we will need help planting them. Add your name to our list of volunteers (send to Glenda (denniston@wisc.edu or 231-1530)) to be contacted.

You Don't Need a Scheduled Work Party!

Scheduling work party dates is difficult because we are unable to predict weather. Optimum times for planting and invasive species removal vary from year to year. We will list work parties on our web page

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(waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve/) and contact volunteers by email shortly before the event.

You don't have to wait for a work party to help in the Preserve. Glenda and others do volunteer stewardship work in the Preserve year round. At present she is working on invasive species control with two student interns. You are welcome to join them or to work with her at other times. Her schedule is very flexible and she enjoys company. Just call or email her to set up a time.

Stewardship Occurs Throughout the Preserve

Others also need your help. Rebecca Kagle will need many volunteers in Muir Woods this spring for trail maintenance and other tasks. Field Manager Cathie Bruner, cbruner@fpm.wisc.edu, can tell you about the various Preserve projects.

Volunteers are needed now to control invasive species, plant native species, water and care for new plants, monitor restored areas, and build trails. In addition there are many indoor jobs which need the help of volunteers.

Together we can help restore, sustain and preserve the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and its natural communities for future generations.

Volunteer now!

<p>Reminder Friends Annual Meeting April 11, 2006</p>
