



# PRESERVE!

Volume 10, Number 1, Winter 2010

## Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

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

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### Greetings from the Director....

by Gary Brown

As the first director of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, I want to take a few minutes to introduce myself. My history with the University of Wisconsin goes back to 1979. You have all seen the postcard with the pink flamingos grazing on Bascom Hill. That was my first day of my freshman year. It didn't seem quite natural to see flamingos migrating this far north, but I was young and eager to learn. Little did I know the



student government was sharing with us a little of their humor.

I've learned a lot since that first day. First, I should have snatched up one of the flamingos as a souvenir. Second, stories like this are part of our history and generate a sense of place here on this campus, in this city and in this time. Many of these wonderful stories have

played out in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. I love how these stories connect us back to this place and this landscape. Finally, one must always keep a broad sense of humor. What better way to go through life than with a smile on your face!

Like all college students, it took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do. By the end of my second year, I had tried several majors but none really seemed to fit. Over what were likely too many beers and with a timetable in hand, my friends and I set out to determine what to do with our lives. I stumbled across a class in the Ag school called "Intro to Landscape Architecture". My friend suggested, "Hey, that sounds like something you would like." True, I had taken drafting and loved biology and botany in high school. Needless to say, I fell in head first. From one of the first landscape history lectures by Bill Tishler and Arne Alanen, to restoration ecology classes with Evelyn Howell, I knew I was hooked.

I had been visiting Picnic Point since I was a kid but never really studied it until my soils, ecology and landscape design classes took me into the field to explore the real wonders of this place. My training, and eventual registration as a landscape architect, provided me with a broad perspective on problem solving. I've learned to look at the big picture and help people come together to make good, solid decisions on how to care for our land. This land ethic has been instilled in me, not only by my education, but also by my family of farmers and hunters. Little did I know the trees and pasture landscapes I drew as a child would be memories I would cherish well into my career. What was it that fascinated me with the shapes and shadows of a "good oak" tree? Why did I always draw a wooden fence next to the tree, a few birds flying overhead and a fading sunset in the distance? As a young boy, I loathed getting up early for "the hunt," but what I really enjoyed was just sitting and listening to the land. The language of the land clearly has influenced how I have learned and what I have become. My work with the University of Wisconsin over the last 26 years has been inspired by these early chance encounters with the land and they have changed my life forever. I am sure they will guide me in my journey as director of the Preserve.

My goal is to help facilitate support for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. For the first time, we have a high level of backing from Facilities Planning & Management in providing an administrative leader for the Preserve. Working with our tremendous Preserve staff and ever enthusiastic group of friends, volunteers, faculty and students, I hope to increase learning, research, and outreach opportunities along with just plain enjoyment of this wonderful area in the midst of our urban landscape. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve and this campus will always create the backdrop for many wonderful stories. The Preserve also provides us with a place to simply slow down and listen to nature in all her true glory. Hopefully we'll never see flamingos migrating this way, but at least it would be another great story and photo op if we did.

## Volunteer Profile: Susan Slapnick

### Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 55056  
Madison, WI 53705

email: [rlenehan@charter.net](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net)

[waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve](http://waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve)

[www.lakeshorepreserve.org](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.org)

### Officers

#### President:

Kennedy Gilchrist 608-233-8717  
[kwgilchr@wisc.edu](mailto:kwgilchr@wisc.edu)

#### Vice President:

John Magnuson 608-233-2036  
[jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)

### Committee Contacts

#### Newsletter

Roma Lenahan 608-238-5406  
[rlenehan@charter.net](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net)

#### Volunteer

Glenda Denniston 608-231-1530  
[denniston@wisc.edu](mailto:denniston@wisc.edu)

John Magnuson 608-233-2036  
[jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)

#### 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 Website

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Website. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenahan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to [rlenehan@charter.net](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net). To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by January 21, 2011. The submission deadline is February 10, 2011.

For well over a decade Susan Slapnick has supported the Preserve. She became involved in restoration and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (then the Campus Natural Areas) when she saw a notice in the paper and attended a work party led by Tom and Kathie Brock in 1997. During this early period she removed hundreds of Buckthorn and thousands of Garlic Mustard plants with the volunteer parties that preceded the Friends work parties. Due to the impetus of these early work parties, we have brought these invasive species under control in some areas.

A founding member of the Friends of the Preserve, Susan served on the Friends Board for the first eight years and continues to serve on the Volunteer Committee. She has done the computer work for the Friends Website ([www.lakeshorepreserve.org](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.org)) since 2001, as it grew from a few web pages to hundreds of photos, pages, and documents connected by drop down menus. Susan updates the website regularly with news and work party updates.

After her initial work at the Preserve, Susan became an energetic environmental volunteer. Since her retirement in 2005, she has worked at least two days a week at the Brocks' Pleasant Valley Conservancy. By removing invasive species, using fire (she is certified for prescribed burns), and collecting and spreading seeds (her passion), Susan has helped restore the overgrown weedy bluff at Pleasant Valley into prairie and savanna. This area has recently been named a Wisconsin State Natural Area. Susan also volunteers at Goose Pond and the Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, helping collect seeds, plant prairies, and conduct burns. She does the layout work for the Invasive Plants of Wisconsin (IPAW) newsletter, *Plants Out of Place*. She is active in The Prairie



Enthusiasts as well  
([www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org)).

Since leaving the University of Wisconsin Neurology Department, Susan has continued to expand her interests in the natural world. When she decided to learn about birds, she listened to the 189 calls on John Feith's Wisconsin *Bird Song Ear Training Guide* without knowing what the birds looked like. This allowed her to identify birds without binoculars while she worked on restoration. She has since learned to visually recognize many species and

has done several Christmas Bird Counts and Big Days. She is always welcome because her keen ears allow her companions to locate birds that would otherwise be missed.

Despite her many other commitments, Susan continues to do field work in the Preserve, removing invasive species, planting plants, and collecting and spreading seed. She was a team leader for the Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon, often leading the team that removed the most Garlic Mustard.

Susan enjoys the physical work of restoration. She is especially fond of seed gathering and burning. She finds even invasive species removal rewarding and often asserts that the struggle against invasive species is ongoing. The only way to a good quality natural area is through "sustainable effort." Susan loves getting to know others doing restoration work. She says she feels like a fellow prairie species, specializing in seeding, weeding and burning.

# Biocore Prairie is Alive and Growing

by Austin Lynch and Caitlin Butte, Biocore student alumni and prairie crew leaders

*“The prairie has come along quite nicely this summer. The tall grasses are up now and the compass plants are peeking their way through to reach the sky. The weedy species have been kept at bay...The cone flowers are in full bloom, and the black-eyed Susan is just finishing up.”* Biocore Prairie Crew Journal—July 26, 2010

Working on the prairie crew for the last two summers, we became used to reporting on and corresponding about ‘prairie happenings’ in our shared journal kept in the little brown shed next to the Biocore Prairie. It became a daily exercise to comment on the flower maturation of *Penstemon*, the height of Big Blue Stem, the seed set of *Baptisia*, areas of Garlic Mustard to attack, and places we had spotted a rare Wood Lily. We got familiar with the rhythms and seasonal changes of the prairie including the daily commute of a family of Sandhill Cranes, and the waves of flowering forbs – the purple and white of June, the pink and yellow of July, and the gold and blue of August. We watched in amazement as the entire landscape grew and changed each day. With twelve years invested in careful cultivation, we can report that the Biocore Prairie is alive and growing – and has captured our attention!

The Biocore Prairie is named for its association with the faculty, staff and students of the Biology Core Curriculum. Ann Burgess and Curt Caslavka, retired Biocore staff, initiated the plan to restore thirteen acres of fallow farm field at the base of Picnic Point to tall grass prairie. Although current staff, Janet Batzli and Seth McGee, provide continued direction, it is the Biocore students that are the engine and inspiration for the prairie. Each fall since 1997, a new cohort of Biocore students inherits the restoration effort. A small but dedicated crew, led by Seth, work in the summer, fighting thorny weeds and encroaching invasives. As crew members, we work all summer long, rain or shine (and believe us, there is a lot of rain). We pull weeds, plant and transplant prairie plants, move rocks, mow grasses, collect seeds, and take soil samples. We learn the common and scientific names of almost every prairie plant and weed species present in the Biocore Prairie. We collect insects and do small research projects to jump-start student investigations in Biocore 302 (Ecology, Genetics and Evolution lab course). While working and learning about the ecology we see in the field, we are privileged to witness the beauty of the prairie’s growth.

The Biocore Prairie is a cornerstone of the Biocore 302 lab course taught by Janet and Seth. The course uses the prairie as a living laboratory for about 120 students each fall. From the first day of class, students are challenged to test their own hypotheses and methods – spending several weeks doing field studies in the

prairie. Over the summer the prairie hosts various youth summer camps, including the Biocore Summer Science Camp, the PEOPLE program, and others. The Biocore Prairie has served as a subject for undergraduate research by Hilldale and Letters and Science Honors grant recipients and curious prairie crew members. It has made appearances in graduate student theses ranging from Entomology to Microbiology. Data collected by volunteers with the Biocore Bird Observatory is being added to a national database concerned with bird migration. Naturalists, birders, and butterfly catchers are regulars at the prairie, along with many adventurous runners who venture onto the narrow prairie trails. More personally, the prairie has special significance to many Biocore students who have gone on to pursue careers in ecological science, conservation, and restoration ecology. And for the aspiring physicians (of which Biocore has a few), the principles of ecology learned in the prairie are often lessons translated to human biology and the environment.

Lucky are we to be a part of the process, and to be stewards of a prairie alive and growing.

*“No matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all the salient facts about any one of them.”*

– Aldo Leopold



Controlling Ox-eye Sunflower – Summer 2009 (J Batzli)  
Lucy Smigel, Lauren Brooks, Karen Bednar

# Emerging Invasive Species

by Roma Lenehan

## Introduction

Preserve staff and volunteers spend much time controlling existing non-native invasive species to prevent them from taking over, replacing diverse native plants, and interfering with Preserve restoration. New species are repeatedly introduced, either accidentally or intentionally. Many of these new species initially stay where they were first introduced, but some later adapt to the environment and escape (S. Carpenter, "Gardening with Native Plants," July 2010, *NewsLeaf*). For instance, the now highly invasive and widespread Buckthorn was planted for almost a century before it began invading natural areas.

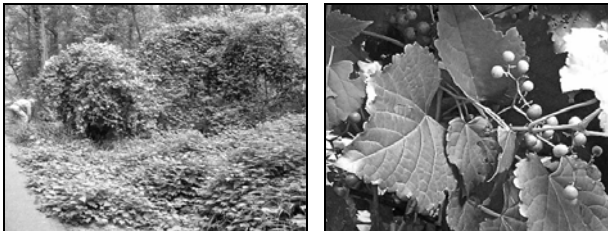
Douglas Tallamy's inspiring book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, points out that non-native plants do not support as many native animals as native plants. Native insects are adapted to eating specific native plants. Most birds feed insects to their young. In landscaped areas with beautiful non-native plants or in degraded simplified natural areas dominated by non-native plants, insects and other invertebrates are less diverse and less abundant, decreasing the amount of food available and the number of young fledged. As more of the landscape is converted to non-native plants, the number of birds that can be supported decreases.

The Preserve has numerous "new" invasive species that have begun to limit native plant species or have the potential to become highly invasive. Some of these plants are not invasive or widespread in other areas of Wisconsin, but may become a problem in the future.

## Vines

### Porcelain Berry

Porcelain Berry is an ornamental grape vine relative. It has deeply lobed leaves and produces spectacular spotted berries that turn blue or purple. Birds avidly eat the berries and spread the seeds. Once established, it produces long vines that smother shrubs and small trees. It also makes dense shade that kills understory plants. Now common in the Preserve, the staff spends much time trying to control it. On the Wisconsin Department of Natural



Porcelain Berry in Wally Bauman Woods, 2010 (A Gundlach)

Resources (DNR) invasive species list Porcelain Berry is a "Prohibited Species," so it is illegal to transfer or possess it. Further east, this beautiful vine smothers entire forests.

### Wintercreeper or Climbing Euonymus

The leaves and low growth of this vine, originally planted as a ground cover, resembles Vinca Minor (Myrtle), but it has woody perennial stems, two toned leaves, and climbs aggressively. Wintercreeper also resembles English Ivy, but has elliptical leaves. Both



Wintercreeper on Oak (G Denniston)

Vinca and Ivy can also become invasive. Wintercreeper forms dense mats, killing other plants and climbing large trees. It occurs in Eagle Heights Woods near the Mound loop.

### Other Invasive Vines

The non-native Eurasian Bittersweet is widespread and invasive. It produces hundreds of appealing berries which are spread by birds.

## Shrubs

### Winged Euonymus (Burning Bush)

Burning Bush turns a spectacular red in the fall. Unfortunately, it readily "naturalizes" and spreads throughout natural areas, crowding out native plants.

### Privet

Privet, commonly used for hedges, has been invasive in the south, but has only recently begun to invade the Preserve. Like Honeysuckle, its black berries are spread by birds. It forms dense thickets that shade out other plants.

### Japanese Tree Lilac

Widely used as a street tree, Japanese Tree Lilac is very invasive at the edge of Bill's Woods. It forms thickets like Buckthorn, shading out native plants.

## Herbaceous Plants

Unfortunately, the Preserve is continually barraged with new weeds – from wind, wild animal feet and fur, bird and animal scat, brush and mulch piles, dirty tools and equipment, truck and bike tires, and human and dog feet. Sooner or later, anything on Campus or in nearby neighborhoods will arrive at the Preserve. Luckily, most plants are not invasive. Others, like dandelion and clover, are so widespread that they are hardly noticed. Only unusually irritating widespread weeds, like the native pioneer species Giant Ragweed (a great food source for wildlife), are even noticed. Preserve staff manages Garlic Mustard, Burdock, Canada and other non-native thistle species, Leafy

Spurge, Dame's Rocket, and Giant Ragweed among others. Recently the staff has also begun to control Motherwort, Creeping Bellflower, and Japanese Hedgeparsley.

#### Japanese Hedgeparsley

Hedgeparsleys are biennials. First year plants have low parsley-like rosettes. Second year plants are two to six feet tall with branched stems. They produce tiny white flowers in July and August. The seeds are stick-tights that attach to clothing and fur, allowing the species to rapidly invade forests, prairies and edges. The first Preserve Japanese Hedgeparsley plant was found and removed in 2010 at the entrance to Frautschi Point, but this plant is widespread and invasive elsewhere.



Blooming Hedgeparsley (D Eagan) Seeding Motherwort (G Denniston)

#### Motherwort

Although Motherwort is well established in the Preserve, and thus not an "emerging" invasive, it is often overlooked. Motherwort is a perennial that produces sharp stick-tight seeds along its stem that readily travel on fur and clothing. Once established in a disturbed area, it invades the adjoining areas, producing hundreds of seedlings. Often, once Garlic Mustard or Honeysuckle is removed, Motherwort takes off, covering the area in a very short period. Motherwort is present along disturbed edges and trails in the Preserve.

#### **Replace Invasive Species with Native Plants**

Invasive plant removal creates disturbed areas where new opportunistic weeds can invade, so appropriate native plants need to be planted to replace the non-native invaders and attract native wildlife. To learn about local native plants suitable to your setting, see the UW Arboretum or the Wild Ones Websites. Native plants can be obtained at the May Arboretum plant sale or at native nurseries. To replace vines, you can use Wild Grape and Virginia Creeper which are invasive native species that produce abundant berries for birds, have beautiful fall color, and support native insects. Diverse native shrubs and small trees that produce berries, like Native Elderberries, Viburnums, and Dogwoods, will attract birds and grow in woodlands and edges. Many beautiful herbaceous plants, ranging from grasses and sedges to wildflowers, are available as seeds or plants.

#### **What Can You Do?**

Everyone can help with invasive species management. Invasive species management is a matter of "CONSTANT VIGILANCE!" as Mad-Eye Moody said in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (J. K. Rowling, 2000). Regularly check your yard and your neighbors' yards for any new invader that is aggressive. It is always easiest to control an invasive species when it first appears, before it covers a large area, has created a large seed bank, and established many deep roots. Things you can do:

1. Familiarize yourself with the emerging invasive species, especially those in your neighborhood.
2. Don't plant highly invasive species – and if you have them, don't let them go to seed. After they bloom, cut off and collect the dead flowers of plants like Dame's Rocket or Creeping Bellflower, so that they don't form seeds. They may even bloom a second time!
3. Remove invasive species from your yard.
4. Replace aggressive non-native species with native species. This will prevent the plants from invading natural areas and increase birds and butterflies in your area.
5. Scout for invasive species in your neighborhood, parks, and the Preserve. If you find an infestation, tell someone.
6. Volunteer to help your neighbors control their invasive species – they will not stay on your neighbor's property long! Many people do not even know they have an invasive species and will be grateful for your help.
7. Volunteer to help remove invasive species at a local park or the Lakeshore Nature Preserve!

#### **Resources**

- Black, M R. and Judziewicz, E. J. 2008. *Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest*. Cornerstone Press.
- Boos, T., Kearns, K., LeClair, C., Panke, B., Scriver, B., Williams, B. 2010. *A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants of Wisconsin*. Wisconsin DNR. (This is also available on the DNR Website listed below).
- Czarapata, E. J. 2005. *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control*. University of Wisconsin Press.
- DNR Website: [www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives)
- Invasive Plant Society of Wisconsin Website: [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)
- Plants of Wisconsin Website: [www.wisplants.uwsp.edu](http://www.wisplants.uwsp.edu)
- Tallamy, D. W. 2007. *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Timber Press.
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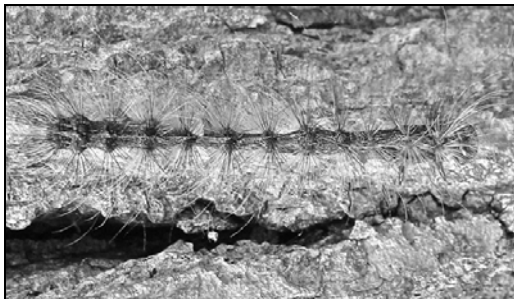
## Around the Preserve

### Gardens Win Orchard Contest

Thanks to the votes of gardeners and community members, the Eagle Heights Community Gardens won fruit orchard funds from Edy's Ice Cream, a division of Nestle, Inc. On September 15 the Gardeners, with installation expertise from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation of California and local advice from arborist Sean Gere, planted 53 new trees bought with these funds. Most of the planted trees were apples, but volunteers also planted a few pear, cherry and peach trees and an additional 18 blueberry bushes. Of the trees, 37 were planted on the East border of the Eagle Heights Gardens (toward the lake), 8 in the F. H. King Student Garden, 7 in University Houses Gardens and one replaced a wind damaged tree. Most of the new trees were heirloom apple trees, but some University of Minnesota modern varieties were included. The purpose of the trees is to train interested students, gardeners, and Preserve visitors in fruit tree management. The Gardeners will offer several hands-on pruning workshops each spring. They also teach pest and blight management techniques, emphasizing non-toxic control measures.

### Gypsy Moth Die-off

After several years of increasing Gypsy Moth numbers, Madison, like much of Wisconsin, had a Gypsy Moth caterpillar die-off in 2010. The wet weather enhanced *Entomophaga* fungus and NPV virus which killed most of the caterpillars. These diseases, introduced to control Gypsy Moth, become more common as the Moths become more numerous. They are most deadly in cool, wet years. As a result of the caterpillar die-off, Gypsy Moth numbers should be lower next year.



Dying Gypsy Moth at the Preserve (G Denniston)

### Pull Garlic Mustard Now

Consider pulling Garlic Mustard in the fall, when the first year plants do not have to be collected and can be composted. Alternatively, while it is very visible in the fall, mark the green plants so that they will be easy to find and remove next spring. Until late April when the Garlic Mustard bolts in order to bloom, it does not have to be bagged because it lacks seeds.

## A Wet Summer in the Preserve

The summer of 2010 was the second wettest summer ever in south central Wisconsin – 19.2 inches of rain, compared with 20.1 inches in 2007. In most of the state, it was the wettest year ever. Much of the rain came in sudden storm events about every ten days throughout the summer. The wet summer had a wide variety of effects.

As a result of the wet year, the lake was high most of the summer. The Class of 1918 Marsh remained high, flooding the playing fields and the path behind the Marsh. These flooded fields interfered with the use of the playing fields and killed some grass. The flooded areas also provided food and habitat for migrating shorebirds, including Pectoral Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs and Semipalmated Plover. The Sandhill Crane family with a colt could be seen feeding in the flooded ditches along the playing field to the edge of Shorewood Hills.



Flooded Area Behind Class of 1918 Marsh, 2010 (G Denniston)

Due to the rain, most plants throughout the Preserve did incredibly well. Almost all the new and transplanted plants and trees thrived and did not have to be watered. Most of the prairie and savanna plants did exceptionally well, growing very tall and blooming profusely. Some of them even bloomed twice or continued to bloom all summer, creating a spectacular backdrop for the Friends summer field trips. Due to the wet conditions, weeding was easy throughout the summer.

However, not everything appreciated the wet weather. Many birds failed to raise young on their first attempt and consequently were still feeding young into August or even September. The mosquitoes were very numerous from June into September, perhaps as numerous as they have ever been in our area, as the frequent rains allowed them to reproduce repeatedly. Since any mosquito repellent was rapidly sweated off in the warm and humid later parts of the summer, only brave people visited the Preserve in the evenings.

In summary, the summer was good for plants and mosquitoes, but not for relaxed outdoor activities.

# “Oak Savanna” from Scratch

by Glenda Denniston

## New Wildflower Patches

Regular walkers in the Preserve might have noticed patches of colorful wildflowers and native grasses where previously only noxious weeds could be seen. These colorful patches are most noticeable along the western field edge adjacent to Frautschi Point and Second Point Woods, in a small roped-off section of “East Savanna” (a field, formerly an orchard, between Picnic Point and Caretaker’s Woods), and around the large open-grown oak below the site of the original farmhouse at Picnic Point.

Each of these wildflower patches includes at least one Bur or White Oak. All are located in areas in which future vegetation is designated “Savanna” in the Preserve Master Plan of 2006. What are they, and how do they relate to restoration efforts in the Preserve?

## Designated “Oak Savanna” Areas

No original Oak Savanna community occurs in the Preserve, yet the Master Plan delineates a large savanna area on its “Future Vegetation” map ([www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/imap](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/imap)). This extends from “East Savanna” to Lake Mendota Drive. The Master Plan also specifies a “savanna transition zone” between restored prairie and woodland areas.

In fact, nobody has created an Oak Savanna in an area that was not a savanna in the recent past. (For a definition of “Oak Savanna,” see Richard Henderson’s “Savanna Communities” (*Wisconsin Biodiversity as a Management Issue*, 2006, pp. 88-96)). In former savannas, where scattered open-grown oaks and a good seed bank remain, savanna vegetation has been restored, usually through the use of prescribed burns. In contrast, any “Oak Savanna” in the Preserve must be made “from scratch” and will only approximate a true Oak Savanna. A true Oak Savanna is a fire-dependent community.

## Savanna Creation

In 2004, under the supervision of Preserve management, and with the support of the Friends of the Preserve, staff, and volunteers, Glenda Denniston began to care for old oaks as well as sapling oaks and small open areas around them.

The Field Edge - The most developed of these areas in the Preserve is a part of the field edge. This ongoing restoration has been discussed in several *PRESERVE!* articles (i.e. G. Denniston, Spring 2007). In 2005, after the initial removal of the tangle of invasive shrubs and noxious weeds like Burdock and Canada Thistle, savanna seeds from Tom and Kathie Brock’s Pleasant Valley Conservancy, native plants funded by the

Friends, and thirteen sapling Bur Oaks were planted along the field edge and cared for ever since. This area will become part of the Master Plan’s “savanna transition zone.”

“East Savanna,” the Old Apple Orchard - In 2004 Glenda started locating and marking young oaks in the Preserve. One of these was a 1.5 foot tall Bur Oak in the old apple orchard. After the apple trees had been



Protected Bur Oak (G Denniston)

cut down more than ten years ago, the field had been kept open by yearly or twice-yearly mowing. Every year this little Bur Oak had been mowed down, yet it survived. With permission, Glenda roped off a square around the oak to protect it. Since 2005 she has cared for this small square of land, cutting the invasive vegetation with hand-clippers and gradually adding native prairie and savanna seeds and plants into the dense sod. She has similarly cared for open areas around other small oaks.

## Present State of the Patches

Now, about five years later, wonderful changes can be seen. The Bur Oaks that were planted along the field edge are now between eight and twenty feet tall, and many are producing acorns. Even the small protected Bur Oak in the middle of East Savanna is seven feet tall. It produced acorns for the first time this year, and the native plants surrounding it are competing well. Bur Oaks grown from acorns gathered in Willow Creek Woods, nurtured in the Walnut Street Greenhouses, and



Cream Gentian in Restored Patch (G Denniston)

planted in various spots in the Preserve in 2006, are small but thriving. In each oak patch, diverse native prairie and savanna groundcover plants are becoming well-established.

It is hoped that by the time Preserve management is given permission to introduce prescribed fire to these designated savanna areas, the sapling oaks will be strong enough to survive a well-planned fire regimen.

# Volunteers Essential to Restoring and Maintaining the Preserve

by John Magnuson, Volunteer Committee Chair

Each of us, in different ways, enjoys the lakeshore, woods, prairies, and all the special places of the Preserve. I, for example, really appreciate Muir Woods and Muir Knoll with the new Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle, and the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path below. These are favorites for me because of familiarity – my office looks into Muir Woods and down the Lakeshore Path from the Limnology Laboratory. We all have such favorite places. Think about your favorite places in the Preserve.

Many of us enjoy the pleasure of working with our hands in the Preserve, weeding and planting, collecting and sowing seeds, maintaining trails, and helping reduce erosion to the lake. This summer and fall the volunteer activities of the Friends concentrated on Bill's Woods. We planted native grasses and forbs, removed Buckthorn and other invasives, and thought about how to make Bill's Woods even more wonderful. Bill's Woods is a place to walk, to sit and contemplate, to be in a wild place, to observe native plants, and to watch birds, insects, and mammals. Bill's Woods is one of many such places in the Preserve.

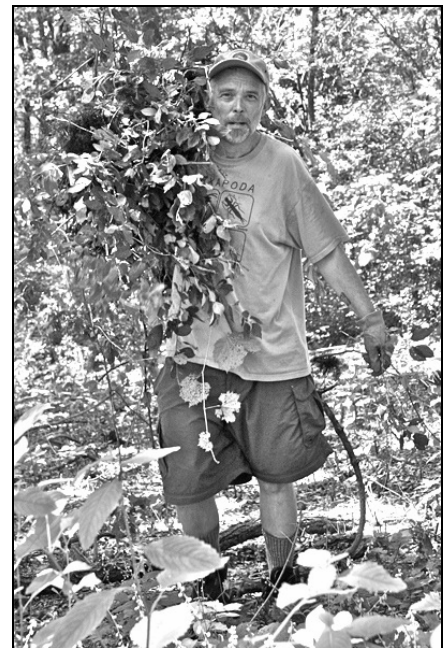
A Friends of the Preserve Volunteer Committee has been established to focus our volunteer efforts and increase participation. Bryn Scriver, the Preserve's Volunteer Coordinator, is an *ad hoc* member and crucial to our volunteering activities.

Beginning this summer, we have held at least two volunteer work parties (2-3 hours) each month. These are announced in *PRESERVE!*, on the Friends website ([waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve](http://waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve)), and the Preserve website ([www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu)). The Preserve staff provides gloves, tools, and a small snack. Dress appropriately for the weather and field work.

The next work parties will be November 6 and 8 (9-12 at Bill's Woods) and December 4 and 6. For more information email me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

## Come and join us.

Pictured below, left to right: Sue Denholm, Glenda Denniston, Ann Burgess and Diane Dempsey; Michelle Louis; Bill Barker, Preserve Committee Chair; Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer Coordinator; Jan Hornback; Josh Seibel and Amy Whillock – Geography 399 Students; Sarah Witman – Environmental Conservation 339 Student. Photos by Glenda Denniston and John Magnuson.





# News from the Volunteer Coordinator

by Bryn Scriver

Preserve staff, interns, and volunteers have been working in the Picnic Point entrance area to remove undesirable woody shrubs and trees—mostly Buckthorn and Japanese Tree Lilac as well as some Eurasian Honeysuckle. The goals for the removals are to increase light reaching the ground in order to promote groundlayer plant growth and prevent erosion, to open up an area that has been recently used by people camping/living in the Preserve, and to allow staff to find and control other invasive species in this area including Porcelain Berry, Burning Bush, and Garlic Mustard. This area will continue to need care. Recent volunteer groups include 4-H, Americorps, Sullivan Hall Substance Free House, and the GreenHouse Residential Community.



4-H Volunteers at Picnic Point (B Scriver)

Other volunteers, including the Friends of the Preserve and Students of the Lakeshore Preserve, helped Preserve staff prepare Muir Knoll for the dedication of the Robert E. Gard Storyteller’s Circle. They removed Buckthorn to create a view of Lake Mendota from the circle and cleaned up the woods edge by removing Burdock, Motherwort, and invasive woody brush from around mature trees.

# Announcements

## New Effigy Mound Book

*Spirits of the Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes*, Robert A. Birmingham’s new book, describes the unusual effigy mound landscape of the Madison Four Lakes region, “Using the natural landscape as their medium, Indian people sculpted vast three-dimensional ceremonial landscapes consisting of earthen images of birds, animals and spirit beings.” He puts the effigy mounds, which were built between 700 and 1100 AD, in context by providing an overview of effigy mound builders, their ancestors and successors. The effigy mounds were built as the local people were changing from seasonally moving hunter gatherers to settled farmers residing in permanent villages. He notes that after thousands of years of continuous occupation of the Four Lakes region, about 1250 AD, shortly after building the effigy mounds, the Native Americans abandoned the area for several hundred years. His text is a guide to the 200 remaining mounds in the Four Lakes area, which survived due to the intense effort by preservationists like Charles E. Brown of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Birmingham also discusses many of the hundreds of carefully mapped mounds that have been destroyed. Mounds in the Preserve and on the University of Wisconsin Campus are discussed in depth. This book is a readable overview of this fascinating subject.

## Picnic Point Bat House Occupied

The new bat house at the entrance to Picnic Point was occupied this summer by bats which feasted on thousands of insects including mosquitoes. Doug Thiessen, a Facilities, Planning and Management employee who has since retired, put up the bat house after consulting with the Department of Natural Resources personnel about the location.

## Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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

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.

# Osprey in the Preserve

Ospreys, or “fish hawks,” are increasingly common in the Madison area. They bred throughout Wisconsin before their population crashed in the 1950s and 1960s due to shooting, habitat loss, and reproductive failure caused by DDT. Protection, the banning of DDT, and a nest platform project enabled their population to increase by 2007 to more than 400 breeding pairs in Wisconsin. Formerly seen mostly in migration, they now breed successfully in much of Wisconsin including the Madison area.

Ospreys are now regularly seen in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in spring, summer, and early fall, fishing along the shore between Picnic Point and Shorewood Hills and perching in large dead trees near the shore. People, like Arlene Koziol who regularly sees the Osprey pass by her condominium in the Cove, usually see only one bird but sometimes find a pair.

In the last couple of years an Osprey has been seen breaking off sticks on Picnic Point in the spring, indicating an interest in nesting in the area. Osprey pairs nest on a high perch near water, often on man-made objects like cell towers. When will the Preserve host an Osprey pair and where will they nest? Watch



Osprey Carrying Fish, Summer 2010 (A Koziol)

the Ospreys and maybe you will be the first to discover a new nest location. Or maybe you will be lucky enough to see a Bald Eagle, which also has an increasing population, chasing the Osprey for its fish.

To see additional bird photographs by Arlene Koziol, see the link on the Friends Website ([www.lakeshorepreserve.org](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.org)).

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

## Picnic Point Public Meeting

November 9 (Tuesday) at 7 PM

Health Science Learning Center  
Room 1335

For additional details see:  
[www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu)

**Save the Date!**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2011**

**Friends Annual Meeting**