



PRESERVE!

Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Fall 2014

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Places to Go, Things to See *New projects bring new opportunities*

By Will Waller

As always, exciting things are happening in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. This season we're happy to highlight two important sites. One is real- major renovation work is in progress in Eagle Heights Woods. The second is virtual- a new *Friends* website went live in June. Both are worth a visit.

Eagle Heights Woods is a 28 acre parcel in the Northeast corner of the Preserve. Marking the highest place on the South side of Lake Mendota, its history is compelling: several Native American burial mounds are located at the hilltop and significant portions of the original carriage road that entertained Madison residents decades ago are visible. It contains the least disturbed acreage in the Preserve. Most of the site consists of dry-mesic oak woodland, which has been accentuated by on-going removal of undesirable vegetation. The original path system is extensive, much of it is recently renovated. From the upgraded paths you can see Ordovician rock outcroppings, a beautiful high level tree canopy, the historic burial mounds, and one of the best lake views in Madison.

The renovation project is ambitious, long-term, and well considered. Preserve Staff has prepared a project guide document which describes the project's key goals and the mechanics to achieve them. The goals are to protect the Native American burial

mounds, enhance the physical and biological resources (soils, native plants and wildlife habitat), facilitate oak woodland and red oak mixed forest, and support teaching and research. It is a unique document and well worth a read.

Like Eagle Heights Woods, the new *Friends* website is a project-in-progress. The fundamental structure is complete and content from the discontinued UW Alumni webserver is being transferred. The new website supports streaming video, social media, and tablet and smart phone use. It offers sophisticated page tracking and blog commentary capabilities. The site is remarkably current with *Friends* events and Preserve news. You can rely on accurate field trip and volunteer day information and event updates. In addition, you'll find links to many topics of interest to the *Friends*- projects, Preserve past and future plans, birding activities, archived newsletters, media galleries, Preserve stories, in-depth articles on historical and ecological topics, a blog for you to post your phenological observations in the Preserve, *Friends* Board activity, and more to come.

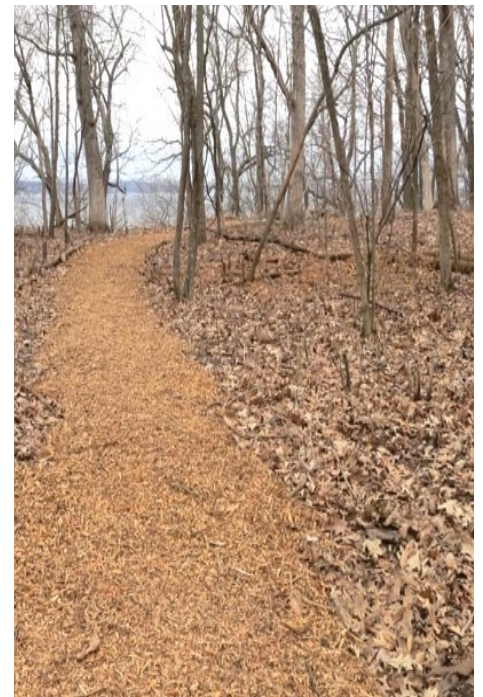
Whereas consultants gave us an estimate of \$10,000 to set up a new site, we've spent only about \$350 plus countless volunteer hours by Gisela Kutzbach. Gisela spearheaded this initiative and welcomes your comments, materials, and photographs to enhance

the site (preserveFriends@gmail.com).

Please take a virtual tour of both sites- www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/eagle-heights-woods.

In addition, you're invited to a "real-time" *Friends* field trip on September 20th, led by Preserve Field Technician Adam Gundlach. You'll experience the exciting goings-on in Eagle Heights Woods first-hand. See page 2 for details.

Photo by Gisela Kutzbach



Eagle Heights Woods path next to Long Mound with view to Lake Mendota.

Fall Field Trips



Eagle Heights Nature Walk- September 9 (Tuesday) 6:30-8:00 pm- New and current Eagle Heights families are invited to join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for an introductory orientation to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We will hike along Frautschi Point and end up at Raymer's Point for a lovely sunset. Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Center. Leader: Doris Dubielzig or Glenda Denniston.

Fall Birding in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve- September 13 (Saturday) 8:00-9:30 am- Enjoy an early fall hike through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve observing flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, and other birds as they linger in the Preserve before migrating for the year. This is a joint field trip co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet at the Class of 1918 Marsh parking lot. Leaders: Peter Fissel (226-0260) and Roma Lenehan (238-5406)

Bird Banding at Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory- September 13 (Saturday) 8:00-12:00 noon- Learn about the importance of bird banding which adds to the knowledge of birds and our efforts at conservation. Drop in any time and stay as long as you wish; even lend a hand if you are so inclined. This is a joint field trip co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Park at Frautschi Point or Picnic Point and walk up to Biocore Prairie above Eagle Heights Gardens. Leader: Mara McDonald (274-2534)

Eagle Heights Community Garden Tour- September 16 (Tuesday) 6:00-7:30 pm- Join in for a tour of an important asset of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, the Eagle Heights Community Gardens. Learn about everything from its horticultural aspects to the administration of this 450+ plot garden. Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Center. Leader: Will Waller (231-6260)

Eagle Heights Woods Restoration Project- September 20 (Saturday) 9:00-11:00 am- Take a hike through the Eagle Heights Woods, an area of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve that is currently under restoration to remove non-native plants and trees and to restore the biological health of the oak woodlands and mixed forest. Park along Wood Lane in Shorewood Hills, and meet at the Shady Lane trailhead. Leader: Adam Gundlach (220-3482)

Class of 1918 Marsh Tour- September 28 (Sunday) 9:00-11:00 am- Explore the Class of 1918 Marsh, a major wetland restoration and preservation in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with John Magnuson, who will discuss his recent winter salt study and its impact on Lake Mendota and the surrounding area (see the accompanying article in the newsletter). Meet at the Class of 1918 parking lot. Leader: John Magnuson (233-2036)

Late Fall Birding in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve- October 5 (Sunday) 8:00-9:30 am- Enjoy the fall colors while taking an early morning birding walk through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Get a taste of the fall migration of birds that remain along the gardens, prairies and woodland edges. This is a joint field trip co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet at the Class of 1918 Marsh parking lot. Leaders: Peter Fissel (226-0260) and Roma Lenehan (238-5406)

Lake Mendota and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve- November 20 10:00-12:00 noon (weather date Thursday October 23): Enjoy a trip on LINMOS, a research vessel operated by the Center For Limnology as we observe the shoreline of the Preserve and discuss the various changes over the years. A fyke net set at the pier will provide an underwater opportunity to observe fall marine life. Meet at the limnology parking lot #8 at the east end of the lakeshore path (no parking available). Note: this very popular field trip is limited to 12 participants – email jjmagnus@wisc.edu to reserve a spot. Leader: John Magnuson (233-2036)

Exploring Past and Present History of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve- October 18 (Saturday) 1:00-3:00 pm- Take an autumn hike through the Preserve to learn about the rich cultural and natural history aspects of the area - including the tent city, graveyard and the Native American presence. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot. Leader: Steve Laubach (238-3157)

Stargazing in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve- October 24 (Friday) 7:30-9:00 pm, weather permitting- Join with the staff of the University of Wisconsin Space Place in viewing the autumn sky from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Enjoy a short introduction about the stars and planets and take a closer look by telescope. Meet at Parking Lot #131 (at the intersection of University Bay and Lake Mendota Drive). Leader: Jim Lattis (262-4779)

... AND don't forget- **Bird and Nature Walks with Paul Noeldner-** Every fourth Sunday of the Month – **September 28, October 26, November 23, December 28, 1:30-3:00 pm-** Take a very entertaining walk in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with Paul for family fun as he looks at the ever changing environment. This is a joint field trip co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet at the Eagle Heights Garden shed. Leader: Paul Noeldner (698-0104) paul_noeldner@hotmail.com

News Briefs & Notes

Annual Meeting Report- *To inspire people to connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is the *Friends* new mission statement. President Gisela Kutzbach led off the Annual Meeting by describing how the *Friends* have pursued that mission. Her colorful presentation illustrated our many Education and Outreach, Land Stewardship, Advocacy, and Financial Support activities. New Board Members Kris Ackerbauer, Gretel Dentine, Doris Dubielzig, and Peter Fisher, and returning members, Patricia Becker and Susan Carpenter, were elected for 3-year terms. Student members, Eric Obscherning and Olivia Sanderfoot, were elected for continuing 1 year terms. Outgoing Board members Paul Borowsky, Marcia Schmidt, and Glenda Denniston were recognized for their years of truly dedicated service. Incoming President Will Waller honored Gisela Kutzbach for her leadership over the past year and presented her with a painting of the *Heritage Oak*, by artist Louisa Waller, a fitting recognition of Gisela's dedication to the Heritage Oak Project. Gary Brown, Director of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, gave a short update on activities of the Preserve staff, and honored Cathie Bruner, who is retiring after many years of caring service to the Preserve. Hannah Gaines-Day, UW Entomology Researcher, then gave a fascinating, well-received presentation on "What's the Buzz with Bees", describing pollinator issues in the context of climate change for both native and non-native bees, based in part on her research in Wisconsin's cranberry fields. The evening closed congenially with the bounty we owe to the bees – food on the table.

The Preserve Breeding Bird Study has confirmed 52 breeding bird species (plus 16 probable and 8 possible) in 2014, to date. Two species, Barred Owl and Bank Swallow, were confirmed for the first time. ***We still need your help.*** Please report breeding behavior (for example, mating, building a nest, or carrying food) for Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and House Finch. Please report *any sightings* of Green Heron, Sora Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Screech Owl, either Cuckoo, and Orchard Oriole. Include the date of the observation, the place, and your name and contact information. Send to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406).

The Students for the Preserve recently received a grant through the Associated Students of Madison Green Fund to support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve staff in their ongoing efforts to restore the land along Willow Creek in a project entitled- "Willow Creek Wetland Plantings: A beautification project to foster student appreciation for Willow Creek and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve." The student organization plans to purchase native grasses and florals to plant along the creek and in the surrounding woodlands. The native wetland plantings will not only add beauty to this natural landscape but also establish a vegetative barrier that will help prevent erosion and runoff into Willow Creek. In the long-term, this will improve the water quality of the creek and provide additional habitat for wildlife, especially for local bird populations.

Volunteer in the Preserve:

Volunteering is a great way to find out what's going on in the Preserve. And you help make a great place even better. Tools and training provided. Dress to work outdoors, and prepare to meet new people and have fun. Youth and groups are welcome with advance notice. For more information please contact: Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist, bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu, 220-5560.

September

Sun. Sept. 21, 9-Noon, Frautschi Point parking lot

October

Sat. Oct. 4, 9-Noon, Picnic Point parking lot 129
Sun. Oct 19, 9-Noon, Picnic Point parking lot 129

November

Sat Nov 8, 9-Noon, Lot 34
Sun. Nov 23, 9-Noon, Picnic Point parking lot 129

December

Sat. Dec 6, 9-Noon, Frautschi Point parking lot

Note: Work parties are cancelled in case of severe weather (snowstorms, thunderstorms, temperatures lower than 10 degrees F or above 100 degrees F), or if the ground is too muddy or snowy for work.

This conservation project within the Willow Creek watershed will give students an opportunity to get hands-on experience working in restoration and preserving an iconic part of the UW-Madison campus and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Students for the Preserve hopes this work will inspire others to take ownership of this amazing resource and help ensure that future generations of Badgers will have a wonderful natural area to care for and enjoy during their time at UW-Madison.

Party on the Path 2014, Friday, September 5, 1:30PM to 3:30PM. Party on the Path showcases a favorite green space on campus- the Lakeshore Path in the Preserve. This experience will provide students with the chance to learn about the Preserve and the Badger Green Scene and hopefully inspire them to join the rich legacy of sustainability on campus. Enjoy a day along Lake Mendota. Although this year's event will be geared toward freshmen, this zero-waste event is open to the public. Sponsored by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Office of Sustainability.

Why Chloride Levels in Our Lakes Matter

Chloride in lake waters can be toxic to aquatic species. Aquatic species include fish, macroinvertebrates, insects, amphibians, and plants.

Current practices for road salt application in the Madison area and on the campus are not sustainable without environmental consequences; toxic levels have already been reached for our urban wetlands, streams, and ponds. The immediate problem is in the marshes and small ponds in our area. In addition to our measurements around the 1918 Marsh, public health scientists with the City of Madison have measured winter concentrations that are chronically toxic and acutely toxic in Willow Creek and in Dunn's Marsh.

For our lakes, average concentrations of chloride are now about 50 mg/L for Mendota, 60mg/L for Monona, and 110 for Wingra. Over the last 50 years average concentrations are increasing in Lake Mendota about 1 mg/L each year. If that rate continues, the waters likely would eventually taste salty and also exceed toxic concentrations for aquatic life. Lake Wingra is increasing about 1.8 mg/L and would be expected to exceed taste and toxic levels even sooner.

Caveats: Concentrations of chloride presented here are for the winter season from late November until late May in one winter. The toxicity criteria cited are likely based on summer temperatures and a few selected aquatic species. One could ask whether these toxic concentrations persist in the 1918 Marsh and surrounding wetlands during the growing season. Our latest samples were collected well into Spring on May 28; at that date chloride concentration of waters flowing into and out of the marsh and into Lake Mendota still were high and often chronically toxic. They ranged from 193 to 545 mg/L. Concentrations likely decline further over the summer but not to pre road salt levels. Future study of this issue should include measuring chloride concentrations during several winters and through the following growing seasons. More detail would also be useful on the basis of toxic criteria in respect to winter conditions.

Winter in the 1918 Marsh: Ice, Snow and Road Salt

By John Magnuson

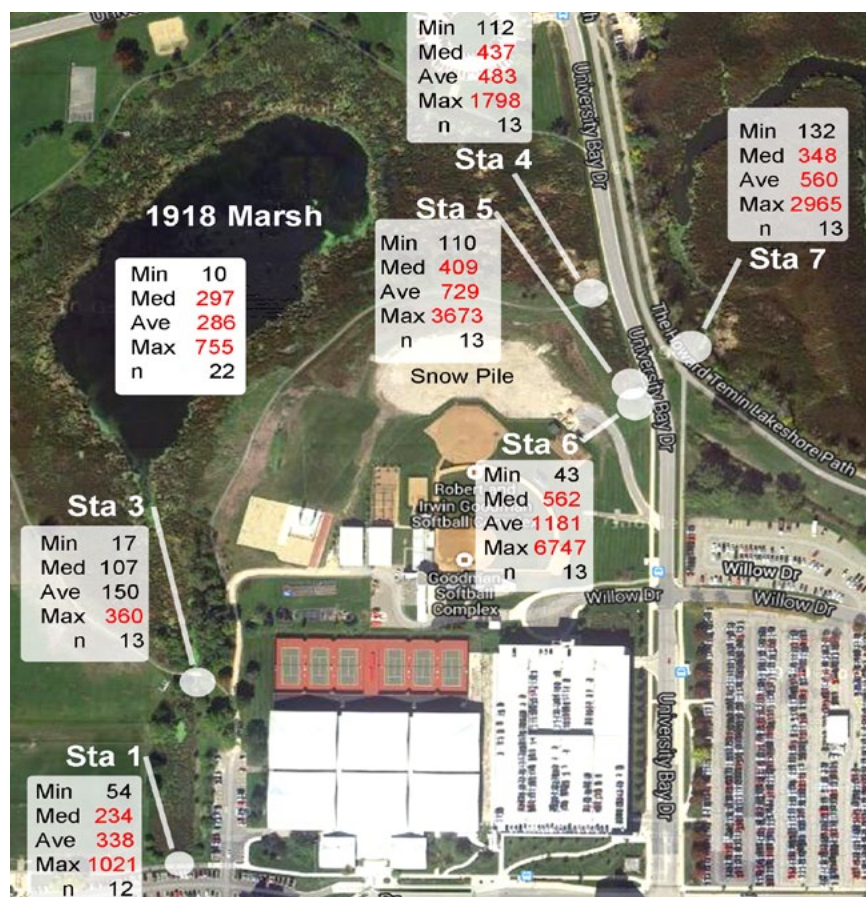
Snow pile sampling. Adjacent to 1918 Marsh, March 12, 2013.



For Additional Information:

1. Madison 2013 report on road salt: http://www.publichealth_mdc.com/publications/documents/RoadSaltRpt2013.pdf
2. Williams, Eric. 2014. Commercial Salt Applicator Certification: An Overview of New Hampshire's Program
3. Winter in the Marsh: Friends 1918 Marsh Audio Trail. Call 608-327-5715, select 32#

Chloride concentrations in and around the Class of 1918 Marsh in the winter of 2012-2013. At each location the following values are listed: the maximum observed, the average observed, the middlemost value (median), and the minimum observed. To put these observed levels in context, note that the US Environmental Protection Agency has set drinking water guidelines for chloride at 250 mg/L, detection by taste at 200-300mg/L, and at 230 mg/L for continuous exposure without an unacceptable effect, and 860 mg/L for brief exposure without an unacceptable effect. The Wisconsin DNR ambient water quality criteria are 395 mg/L for chronic toxicity and 757 mg/L for acute toxicity.



One measure of when winter begins in the Class of 1918 Marsh is when ice cover first appears. This begins a winter tale of changes above and below the waters that are contributing to the degradation of this prized Preserve ecosystem. These changes follow from the pile up of snow on the campus and the subsequent application of road salt to streets, parking lots, and sidewalks, and to the storage of excess snow at the snow pile adjacent to the 1918 Marsh (see photo).

Road salt, in various forms, includes 'chloride' ions that are toxic at high concentrations; chloride also provides an easy measure to follow the journey of road salt from roads, parking lots, and sidewalks to the waters and wetlands around the marsh, to the open water of the marsh, and to the storm drains and creeks that flow into Lake Mendota at University Bay. The City of Madison began using road salt as a deicer on streets in 1959, and presently applies 15,000 tons each winter. The concentration of chloride in Lake Mendota has reached 50mg/Liter. In the open waters of the marsh, it is much higher, up to 755 mg/L in winter, 2012-2013.

While wetlands and marshes are often credited with purifying the waters flowing towards the lakes and streams, they unfortunately do not remove or neutralize chloride. Chloride is passed freely downstream to surface and groundwater. Winter concentrations of chloride are much greater in the marsh and adjacent stream channels than they are in the lakes, where the chlorides are diluted by runoff in warm months when road salt is not applied either in our urban area or on major highways.

Throughout the winter of 2012-2013, I measured the chloride content of waters in and around the 1918 Marsh. The results are summarized in the map of chloride values above. Waters entering and leaving the Marsh, as well as the storm sewer from Parking Lot 60 and areas near the snow pile, were sampled.

The observed chloride concentrations were alarming. Maximum

values were, with two exceptions, markedly above the acutely toxic concentration of 757 mg/L. The average concentrations with one exception were above the 230 mg/L no-effects levels set by the DNR. The highest concentrations are in the storm sewer from Lot 60 (Station 6). The concentrations towards the lake from the snow pile (Stations 4 and 5) are the next highest. Not shown are concentrations between the snow pile and the open waters of the 1918 Marsh where one extreme value of 12,700 mg/L was observed.

The present levels of road salt use by the City, the University, and other governmental, commercial, and private users are not sustainable. What should we, the *Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve*, do? I believe that there are a number of actions we can take. For starters we should recommend that the University:

1. Submit its past and current and future road salt use to the City of Madison.
2. Measure road salt and other contaminants in runoff from parking lots and roads and walkways in the Preserve during both winter and summer.
3. Develop a road salt reduction plan with measurable goals, including training applicators to minimize excess application.
4. Provide information to drivers and pedestrians about the negative aspects of using road salt so that a better balance between human safety and environmental damage can be achieved.

Initially, these actions would increase awareness of the issues among our members and the university community. In the long run these actions could help achieve measurable positive results for the wetlands and waters of the 1918 Marsh.

Acknowledgements: Students and staff of the Center for Limnology helped me. The Center did the chemical analyses. I could not have done this study without their help. I thank them all.

Heartfelt Thanks to our Members and Donors

Together, we care for the Preserve

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*indicates new members

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 Neely Denholm Family Trust
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In Memory of-

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 Anonymous
 John Crowley and Erin Riley
Helen Bruner
 Jean Cronon
 John and Gisela Kutzbach
Stanley Dodson
 Bobbi Peckarsky and Steve Horn

*Please note
 that volunteers will be
 recognized
 in the next issue.*

**Autumn
 is a
 second spring
 when
 every leaf
 is a flower.**

-Albert Camus

I want to make a difference by joining *or making an additional gift to the*



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

- I'm interested in volunteering. Please send me information by email.*
 I'd like to go paperless & receive my newsletter by email.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Student _____ \$10
 Individual _____ \$20
 Household _____ \$35
 Steward _____ \$50
 Patron _____ \$100
 Other \$ _____

ADDITIONAL GIFT

(If you are already a member- does not include membership.)

- Woodland _____ \$500
 Savanna _____ \$250
 Wetland _____ \$100
 Prairie _____ \$50
 Other \$ _____

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

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



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Ideas and *Friends* announcements for our newsletter and website are welcome. If you would prefer to go paperless and receive your newsletter electronically, please email us at:

preserveFriends@gmail.com

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galenhasler@gmail.com

PRESERVE! Vol. 13, #3, Fall 2014

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please visit our website- www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com



Thank you 2014 Interns! Aboard the *Limnos*, left to right- Charles Sickles, Maddie Van Cleve, Lauren Bradshaw, Michelle Atkinson, and Victoria Fuller. Not pictured, Kathryn Prince.

Life as a Preserve Intern

by Maddie Van Cleve

It sometimes seemed to me, before this summer, that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve was little more than a strip of woods and gravel that funneled joggers from Memorial Union down to Picnic Point. Yes, I had admired the beauty of the spring ephemerals in Muir Woods, and the splendor of the Biocore Prairie, and I had heard the stories about hard-won restoration victories, but I hardly realized the extent, diversity, and history of the site until I became fully immersed in it as a Prairie Partner Intern.

My five fellow interns and I roll *down* our sleeves (any buckthorn busters out there will understand) and dive into the forgotten parts of the Preserve. Some days our work sounds like a

Crossfit regimen: pulling, lifting, dragging, digging. Our efforts are typically focused on a familiar group of miscreants—garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn. These days we're off-trail in brush that hides secrets such as doggy tombstones (Frautschi Point) and buried rhino skeletons (Second Point Woods).

On our more genteel workdays we might be planting woodland wildflowers out at Picnic Point or collecting spiderwort seeds at the Biocore Prairie with the excellent Biocore interns. These are the days we're most likely to spy wildlife: the regal kingbird that once congratulated us on planting Jacob's ladder near the Picnic Point burial mounds; the grumpy painted turtle we ushered across the bike-path by Willow Creek Woods.

Other memorable days include finding the lost white poodle named "Maddie" while pulling sweet clover in Eagle Heights Woods, (the exact meeting location in these woods, by the way, so eluded me that I ended up biking to the Blackhawk Country Club by mistake and so learned why the neighborhood is called *Shorewood Hills*); learning how a mama and papa cardinal react when their not-quite-fledged young one fell out of the nest near where we were pulling garlic mustard; peaceful lunch breaks with fishermen out at Frautschi Point; break-time yoga in the grass by the Lakeshore dorms; being directed by our supervisor Adam Gundlach not to spend more than 43% of our time picking and eating raspberries while brush-cutting.

It doesn't require twelve hours a week at the Preserve to appreciate the beauty of this urban gem. When school starts again this fall I'll be back in a classroom, but when I need a break from the books it will be the quiet nooks of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to which I will retreat.