



PRESERVE!

Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Fall 2015

- Eagle Heights Woods Success - 1
- Fall Field Trips - 2
- Newsbriefs and Volunteer Dates - 3
- Member and Donor Thanks - 4 & 5
- Summer Intern articles - 6
- New Member Shares Story - 7
- Photo - 8

Goal!

Friends' enthusiastic response exceeds \$135,000 for Eagle Heights Woods Project

Congratulations. We did it! Following the lead of early donors, we exceeded our goal of \$135,000. Hug a tree! Take a walk! Enjoy the view of Lake Mendota from the top of Eagle Heights Woods!

This project in Eagle Heights Woods was introduced to Friends members with a colorful mailing in March and made public at the April Annual Meeting. By mid-June, more than a third of 300+ members had contributed. A single reminder encouraged more members to close the gap. Friends now has the funding that UW Preserve staff needs to move forward with the 5-year plan.

Winter 2015 was quieter than 2014 on the hill as Preserve staff awaited funding to afford hiring contractors for the heavy work. Brush piles were chipped in preparation for a prescribed burn, but weather conditions and timing were prohibitive.

Early spring brought masses of Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, and nodding trillium. Wood anemone, prairie trillium, and poke milkweed bloomed in the upper area. Shooting stars and wild geraniums spread in the dappled sunlight. What emerged next was an emerald green carpet of buckthorn seedlings. While undesirable, it was not a surprise. Lack of funds meant Eagle Heights Woods was long-neglected and buckthorn seed can be viable 5-7 years.

Volunteers of the Preserve's Planning and Implementation Committee developed a protocol for accurate data collection for this project. Ecologist Suzy Will-Wolf, Biologist Ann Burgess, and Preserve Steward Glenda Denniston have

completed an extensive vegetation survey of the upper Eagle Heights Woods area. With baseline data collected, they will repeat the survey later in the summer. Adam Gundlach, Preserve project manager, and the summer interns will continue surveys throughout the project. Staff will adjust their work to the best effect.

What's next? Staff will contract for removal of buckthorn seedlings after the fall frost to protect desirable herbaceous plants. The ground layer will be cleared a second time to make way for native plants or seeds to emerge next spring. Hazard trees in the Central Zone will be removed. This cycle of action, observation, record keeping, and response will be repeated in an attempt to restore Eagle Heights Woods to a more diverse, healthy natural area.

Thank you for your resounding vote on how important these 28 acres of Preserve are to you. Preserve Staff are now able to focus attention beyond the iconic Picnic Point and adjacent woods of Frautschi Point to the lesser-known heights where Native Americans built their mounds overlooking the lake.

As Laura Wyatt, Program Manager for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, wrote recently, "I can never fully express thanks and appreciation for the investment the Friends is making in the Preserve. The Friends has been there from the very beginning and continues to play an integral role in supporting the Preserve mission and seeing that things get done and happen. Thanks for your support!"

We on the fundraising committee ap-

plaud our loyal, generous members. Thank you. -Sue Denholm, Peter Fisher and Gisela Kutzbach



Suzy Will-Wolf, Ann Burgess, and Adam Gundlach instruct Prairie Partner Interns on procedures for Eagle Heights Woods vegetation survey and monitoring. Photos by Glenda Denniston



Bird Banding at Biocore Prairie, August 29 (Saturday), 8:00am-12:00noon. See how birds are netted, banded, measured, and released as part of ongoing research efforts for conservation purposes. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Park at the Picnic Point parking lot and walk up to the Biocore Prairie. Please RSVP by email to leader: Mara McDonald, mamcdona@wisc.edu, or call 274-2534 before 8:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Bird Walk, August 29 (Saturday) 8:00am-11:00am. We will look for early fall migrants, including “confusing fall warblers”, vireos, flycatchers, and others. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Co-sponsored by Madison Audubon Society. Meet at Lot 130 at Picnic Point. Leaders: Roma Lenehan, 238-5406 (rlenehan@charter.net) and Marty Evanson (mtevanson@gmail.com)

Class of 1918 Marsh Tour, September 13 (Sunday), 1:00pm-3:00pm. Explore the Class of 1918 Marsh, a highly successful major wetland restoration and preservation within the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. John Magnuson will discuss the ongoing study of winter salt and its impact on the lake and surrounding area. Meet at the Class of 1918 parking lot. Coleaders: Greta Helmueller and John Magnuson 233-2036 (jjmagnus@wisc.edu)

Geologic History of the Preserve and Madison Lakes, September 20 (Sunday), 1:00pm-3:00 pm. On the cusp of the fall season, consider the glaciers that were here 25,000 years ago as we talk about geology on a walk to Picnic Point entrance. Meet at Chamberlain Rock, next to Washburn Observatory, 1401 Observatory Drive. Park on the street or at Lot 26. Additional parking is available at Lot 34 or Picnic Point parking lot and walk up. Leader: David Mickelson 262-7863 (davem@geology.wisc.edu)

4th Sunday of the Month Birding and Nature Walk with Paul Noeldner, September 27 (Sunday), 1:30pm-3:00pm. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society (see the website for details). Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed. Park across the street from the Community Gardens entrance in Lot 131. Leader: Paul Noeldner, 698-0104 (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com)

Fall Lakeshore Nature Preserve Bird Walk, October 4 (Sunday) 8:00am-11:00am. 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 and Roma Lenehan; call Peter at 226-0260 (peter.fissel@wisc.edu)

Stargazing in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, October 9 (Friday), 7:30pm-9:00pm. *Weather permitting.* Join with the staff of the University of Wisconsin Space Place in viewing the autumn sky from the 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 Drive and Lake Mendota Drive). Leader: Jim Lattis, 262-4779 (lattis@astro.wisc.edu).

A Mycological Stroll in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, October 18 (Sunday), 1:00pm-3:00pm. We will look for examples of fungi that are pathogens, ones that play a role in recycling the woods, and ones that form mutually beneficial partnerships with other plants. Meet at Picnic Point parking lot. Leader: Jessie Glaeser 231-9215 (jglaeser@fs.fed.us)

4th Sunday of the Month Birding and Nature Walk with Paul Noeldner, October 25 (Sunday), 1:30pm-3:00pm. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society (see the website for details). Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed. Park across the street from the Community Gardens entrance in Lot 131. Leader: Paul Noeldner, 698-0104 (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

Mid-Fall on Biocore Prairie, November 15 (Sunday), 1:00pm-2:30pm. On a crisp mid-fall day, join us for a walk on Biocore Prairie, a flourishing prairie restoration program that is used for undergraduate teaching and research. Meet at Frautschi Point lot. Leader: Janet Batzli 263-1594 (jcbatzli@wisc.edu)

4th Sunday of the Month Birding and Nature Walk with Paul Noeldner, November 22 (Sunday), 1:30pm-3:00pm. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society (see the website for details). Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed. Park across the street from the Community Gardens entrance in Lot 131. Leader: Paul Noeldner, 698-0104 (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com)

4th Sunday of the Month Birding and Nature Walk with Paul Noeldner, December 27 (Sunday), 1:30pm-3:00pm. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society (see the website for details). Meet at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens shed. Park across the street from the Community Gardens entrance in Lot 131. Leader: Paul Noeldner, 698-0104 (paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

News Briefs

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve's Pollinator Conservation Project is an undergraduate and community-based volunteer initiative that focuses on supporting Madison's native pollinators. Pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of most flowering plants. Because of their recent decline in population and diversity it is important to take steps towards creating conservation strategies. This project aims to educate the community and collect baseline data about Wisconsin's pollinators. Undergraduate and community volunteers will learn about conservation and practice field techniques such as photo surveys, insect collection, and bee box monitoring. Informational signs accompanying the bee boxes will serve to educate the Preserve's visitors. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve will be able to make use of the data as a baseline for future management decisions. For information on how you can get involved (3-5 hour commitment/week required), please email: pollinatorbuzz@gmail.com -By *Emily Greinwald*

Photo of *Bombus auricomus* on Wild White Indigo (*Baptisia alba*)
by student volunteer Brenna Weisner.



Come visit FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com—our website. You'll find information about our various activities, including field trips, volunteer activities, progress in the Eagle Heights Woods rejuvenation, and the blog describing special projects such as the camcorder project focused on owlets, the Blue Bird Box monitoring project, flowering ephemerals, and painted turtles. You'll find a panoply of pictures of the flora, fauna, and humans in the Preserve. A special treat is the link to Arlene Koziol's outstanding video presented at the Annual Meeting, "Celebrating the Preserve", set to *Gabriel's Oboe*, and a link to John Kutzbach's presentation, "Seeing Climate Change". Perhaps you'll even find yourself in one of the shots of volunteers and visitors enjoying the Preserve.

Whooo's that near Willow Creek? The *Friends* recent funding of a birdcam makes it possible for Hannah DePorter, UW Urban Wildlife student, to continue monitoring the Great Horned Owls at Willow Creek and their owlets. Paul Noeldner, Lakeshore Nature Preserve citizen science and student research facilitator, and member of the *Friends*, wrote the proposal to obtain the Preserve permit to install the camera.

DePorter identified the owls' favorite roost site on a limb of a large cottonwood tree near the Willow Creek outlet. Sean Gere, of Gere Tree Care, volunteered his services as a professional arborist and trainer, to install the birdcam. He will also help with maintenance. To follow this ongoing story in detail, please see the *Friends* website blog- <http://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/blog>



Willow Creek
owlet as
captured by
birdcam.



Hannah DePorter with the new
birdcam purchased by the *Friends*.
Photo by John Kutzbach

Volunteer in the Preserve

Tools and training provided. Dress to work outdoors. Youth and groups are welcome with advance notice. For more information please contact: Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist, bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu, 220-5560.

- Sat. Sept 19**, 9am-Noon, Frautschi Point parking lot
- Sun. Sept 27**, 9am-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129
- Sat. Oct 10**, 9am-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129
- Sun. Oct 25**, 9am-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129
- Sat. Nov 7**, 9am-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129

Note: Work parties may be 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.

Many Thanks to our Generous Members and Donors:

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* indicates new members

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Jack Westman
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Gisela Kutzbach*
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Levi and Janet Wood,
*in memory of Kenneth
Weston Wood*

Eagle Heights Woods Fund Drive

A donation in honor or memory of loved ones is a great way to help the Friends. For example, hard-working *Friends* members John and Gisela Kutzbach recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Family members wanted to mark the occasion with a meaningful and unique gesture. Noting their parents' enthusiasm and dedication to the Eagle Heights Woods Project, they decided the perfect gift was to surprise them with a generous donation to the project in their honor.

If you've made a special donation in memory or honor of someone, thank you. If you're ever interested in doing so, please contact- PreserveFriends@gmail.com.



John and Gisela Kutzbach celebrate their 50th Anniversary with their children and grandchildren.

Each summer, the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve funds a hard-working and inquisitive group of “Prairie Partner Interns”- These stories tell you why...

2015 Prairie Partner Interns, left to right- Tony De Valle, Roberta Donaldson, Nate Kueffer, Tessa Schaub, Joe Clark, Katya Frank. Preserve Staff, Adam Gundlach, in back. Photo by Glenda Denniston

2015 Interns- Learning by “Do-gooding”

By Adam Gundlach

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve was fortunate again to have shared the Prairie Partners summer intern crew with Dane County’s Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Natural Heritage Land Trust, and Madison Audubon’s Goose Pond Sanctuary. The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* generously sponsored the 2015 interns in the Preserve.

This summer’s crew included three UW-Stevens Point students (Tessa Schaub, Joe Clark, and Nate Kueffer), two UW-Madison students (Tony De Valle and Roberta Donaldson), and one UW-Platteville student (Katya Frank). From quiet beginnings, the crew gelled into a well-oiled machine of ecological do-gooding. Emblazoned with scars of the wild parsnip wars, the interns waded through mosquito-infested thickets, fended-off tick hitchhikers,



and dodged yellow jacket ground nests, while casting off these adversities with a playful shrug. Any given day the crew’s tasks ranged from weed control to trail maintenance, brush removal to seed collection and vegetation monitoring. Their adventures took them from the eastern finger of the lakeshore path to the western terminus of campus in Eagle Heights Woods.

Often identified as a favorite part of the intern experience, routine work days were interspersed with presentations and discussions on topics relating to ecological restoration, cultural history, geology, limnology, bird monitoring, and more. Aboard the Center for Limnology’s Limnos research vessel they viewed the Preserve from the Lake Mendota perspective, discussing issues affecting our lakes

with Emeritus Professor John Magnuson. Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus of Conservation Stanley Temple gave a talk titled “Aldo Leopold, Phenology, and Climate Change”, followed by a visit to the Leopold Archives in Steenbock library. Holding the detailed notes of an iconic environmental thinker in their hands, or the pipe he puffed on while pondering those notes, allowed them to consider more deeply their place in the unfolding timeline of history.

A summer spent on the Prairie Partners crew provides interns an opportunity to view ecological principles and restoration techniques from different perspectives, hone observation skills, and discuss the shifting ecological interactions swirling around them- all while making the Preserve a better place.



Amanda Budyak and Jeremy Mittag at the Spring Planting Festival. Amanda “gives back” by volunteering her expertise in ecology and land management in the Preserve. She also serves on the *Friends* Board of Directors.

Photo by John Kutzbach

Life-changing Serendipity

By Amanda Budyak

The summer of 2008 changed my life. I had just graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Forestry and Recreation Resource Management and had no clue as to what to do. Fortunately, I had applied for the Madison Audubon internship- a group of five “prairie partners,” including the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. (The former Madison Audubon interns are now officially named the *Prairie Partners Interns*.) I had applied on a whim, at the last minute, and while the internship sounded good, I was thrilled to be selected for a paying job. A college grad with a job. Whew! Little did I know it was going to be an incredible summer that would determine the direction of my career path.

The internship was tough. Long, hot days out on the prairie pulling sweet clover and wild parsnip, and in the woods cutting wretched buckthorn and honeysuckle. The work was physically demanding, but I loved it. Laboring day after day with a great (and

knowledgeable) group of fellow interns and supervisors made the time fly. Every day was a unique learning experience and I was floored by how much knowledge I was gaining about land restoration. By the end of the summer, we “prairie partners” were bonded over our experiences and sad to have our time together end.

I was hired to stay on awhile with the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The following summer, The Savanna Oak Foundation (Tom and Kathie Brock- another “prairie partner”) hired me to work at Pleasant Valley Conservancy. I now split my time as its land manager, and as a senior ecologist at Integrated Restorations, LLC- a local land restoration company. My experience has come full circle as I currently supervise a group of summer interns and give them the same experience I was blessed with having. I also serve as a board director for the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve*.

Thank you, *Friends*, for the opportunities and direction you helped me uncover just 7 years ago. And best of luck to this years’ crew.

A Path to Friends

A new member shares her story

By Sarah Goldenberg

I am a new member and volunteer for the *Friends*. I happily joined after many walks in the Eagle Heights Woods and a curiosity about the abrupt changes there in the past year. With a huge amount of buckthorn removed, I could now see the hillside topography and beautiful rock outcroppings toward the top of the path near the effigy mounds. So much had been obscured. One day I discovered a 180-degree panorama of the lake that I did not know existed after hiking that route for 13 years! I also noticed a lot more happening all along the lake-shore paths and throughout the woods, but was unaware of the source of all that good work. After discovering the *Friends*, I was filled with awe by what I've learned about our 300-acre Preserve and the immense planning and commitment toward a revitalization, both by UW and the *Friends* organization. Since then, I have been telling many friends and neighbors about this work, and encouraging them to become members. It is wonderful to be a part of something so positive!

On May 17th, I joined in my first Spring Planting Festival with over 20 other volunteers. It was a jovial group and fun to plant with others side-by-side. We planted over 800 woodland flowers and grasses (26 different species). It was a unique experience: stepping onto the woodland floor, carefully avoiding new transplants already in place, then clearing the small space needed for a new woodland flower. I continued planting in the site along the path at Frautschi Point trying to imagine the outcome. Now that my awareness is piqued, I can hardly wait to see what transpires. I find myself more watchful and present as I take my walks in these woods...always thinking, "we're so lucky!"



New member Sarah Goldenberg takes a break from digging during the annual *Friends* Spring Planting Festival.

Photo: John Kutzbach

I'd like to make a difference by joining or making an additional contribution to-

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 is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705

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P.O. Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705

Ideas and *Friends* announcements for our newsletter and website are welcome.

If you'd prefer to go paperless and receive your newsletter electronically, please email us at:

preserveFriends@gmail.com

President: Will Waller 608-231-6260

Vice President: Galen Hasler

Secretary: Doris Dubielzig

Treasurer: Gretel Dentine

Friends Volunteer Coordinator:

Galen Hasler 608-206-5218

galenhasler@gmail.com

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

Please visit our website- www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com



Field trips with the *Friends* are full of fun and discovery for all ages. Please see page 2 for our autumn adventures.

"Pretty Things with Wings"- A July field trip in the Preserve. *Photo: Gisela Kutzbach*