



# Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

WINTER 2016–2017

## Green heron foraging, healthy wetlands

By Arlene Koziol, conservation photographer

Last September, I had the opportunity to observe and photograph a green heron foraging near the Willow Creek bridge. It was catching minnow-sized largemouth bass and sunfish.

The green heron is a secretive wading bird that mostly eats fish. It has many feeding strategies, including using bait to attract fish. This bird was perched on a branch over water, allowing it to access deeper water than when wading. The green heron is a stand-and-wait predator. Sometimes the head is withdrawn, ready for a bill stab. Other times the head is extended, ready for a bill lunge. This bird was very patient, often standing absolutely still for many minutes.

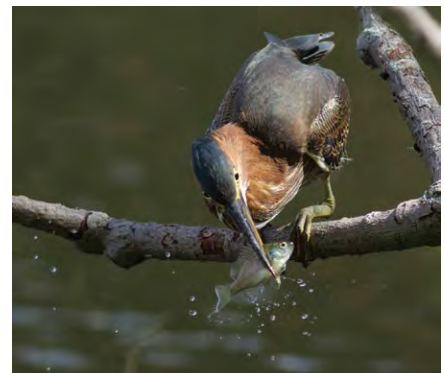
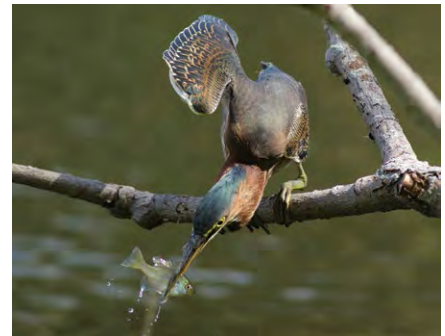
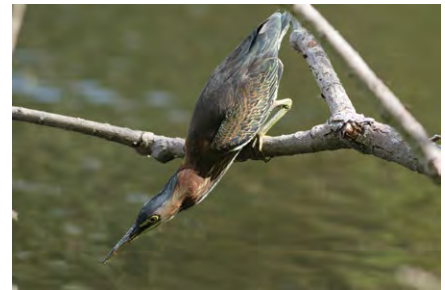
Wetlands are essential for many birds. For green herons, wetlands are their primary habitat, which means they depend on them for survival. The wetlands provide food, cover, and water. Wetlands are also vital to fish survival, providing food, shelter, spawning and nursery areas, as well as clean water.

To learn more about green herons, visit these resources:

- Video (Arkive)—using bread as lure: [tinyurl.com/green-heron-video](http://tinyurl.com/green-heron-video)
- General information (Cornell): [tinyurl.com/green-heron-info](http://tinyurl.com/green-heron-info)
- Behavior (Heron Conservation): [tinyurl.com/heron-behavior](http://tinyurl.com/heron-behavior)



*The green heron has been the symbol of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve since it formed in 2001. When the group contacted Kandis Elliot to create a logo, “the green heron seemed to fit us best,” recalled Roma Lenehan. Our thanks to Kandis for designing an enduring logo, and to Arlene for her stunning photography.*





## December

- 25 Bird and nature walk**  
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) See box.

## January

- 15 Animal tracking in the Preserve**  
(Sunday, 1:00–3:00 p.m.) Join UW wildlife specialist and professor David Drake as he shows how to track foxes, coyotes, and other denizens of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance. Leader: David Drake, 890-0445, ddrake2@wisc.edu.

- 22 Bird and nature walk**  
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) See box.

## February

- 26 Bird and nature walk**  
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) See box.

## March

- 26 Bird and nature walk**  
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) See box.

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAYS— Bird and nature walk

(1:30–3:00 p.m.). Bring your binoculars and camera and explore the varied ecosystems and wildlife of the Preserve on a walk with Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner. Meet at the Picnic Point parking lot at 2002 University Bay Drive. See the website for more details. Leader: Paul Noeldner, 698-0104, paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

## Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail update

By Patricia Becker

There was modest success on the Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail this summer. The trail of 16 boxes was monitored from mid-April to mid-August, during which time eastern bluebirds nested in two boxes and successfully raised 10 young. Towards the end of summer, several of the young birds were spotted in the Preserve, raising hopes that they will return next spring to nest.

Tree swallows were more successful, nesting in 6 boxes and raising 27 young.

House wrens outdid both species. They started out in 2 boxes and, after the other birds had finished nesting, took over most of the boxes and raised about 30 young. Although the smallest of the nesters, wrens build their nests of the coarsest materials, twigs, and build them high in the box, making it difficult to count eggs and nestlings. (Bluebird nests, in contrast, are low and neat, built of fine grasses and pine needles, while tree swallows use coarse grasses and straw, and line their nests with adult feathers.)

House sparrows, common near the Eagle Heights Gardens, are aggressive in taking over bluebird boxes. To outwit the sparrows, we relocated several boxes away from the gardens and added three new boxes along the prairie.

The Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail is designed to promote the welfare of bluebirds, who are experiencing decreased natural nesting habitat. It is a citizen science project—we report our data to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, which in turn sends them to the North American Bluebird Society. For the Friends, the project is fulfilling a part of our goal to promote nature awareness and education among our members and the general public.

And one more note: This spring there will be an exciting addition to the prairie—a purple martin house.



## IN APPRECIATION OF WINTER

## Reflection, thanksgiving, and celebration

By Laura Wyatt, program manager, Lakeshore Nature Preserve

I thoroughly enjoy the Midwest's change of seasons that provides a slowing down of the cycle of life, and with it, moments to cautiously observe the natural world. I especially enjoy walking along the forested edge of Tent Colony Woods and Frautschi Point and watching the ice creep across Lake Mendota. The starkness of the winter forest provides not only opportunity to distinguish trees by bark textures and forms, but also opportunity for quiet reflection. The sparks of wildlife activity are a reminder that we are but visitors to this special land.

Winter is my favorite season for forest walking. Our place in history is so short, but so important in ensuring that this natural resource passes on to future generations to enjoy. We are thankful for those who recognized the importance of protecting these cherished lands and for the donors, volunteers, and staff who have been part of restoring and caring for them. The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is both a catalyst for this endeavor and a valued partner with the university. There is a synergism that results from this special partnership which is stronger than each partner individually. Special thanks to members of the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve*.

## Volunteer opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to enjoy the Preserve. Long pants (not leggings) and closed-toe shoes required. Dress for cold, wet weather. Tools and gloves provided. Groups and youth are welcome with advance notice. For more details, contact Bryn Scriver, bryn.scriver@wisc.edu, 220-5560.

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.–noon

Date	Meeting place
Feb 19 Sun	Frautschi Point lot
Mar 11 Sat	Picnic Point, Lot 129

## NEWS BRIEFS

## New kiosk at Picnic Point entrance

We celebrate the installation of a new informational kiosk located at the entrance to Picnic Point. This is the last of three; the others are located at the east end of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path and at Frautschi Point.

The kiosks greet visitors to the Preserve and provide general information so they can orient themselves and plan their walks. The signs also feature information on the Friends, including our field trips. Other esthetic improvements have been added to the entrance, such as native plant beds and some large boulders as resting spots. Our thanks go to the Patricia E. Dugan Fund and Preserve staff for making this project possible.



## FIELD TRIP

## Animal tracking

How do you “see” animals that typically go unseen? Join wildlife specialist David Drake on January 15 as he tells how to decipher tracks and other clues animals leave behind. David recommends two guides: *Mammal Tracks & Sign* and *Bird Tracks & Sign*, by Mark Elbroch.

Save the date—  
April 4, 2017

**Please plan on attending** our annual meeting this spring. Join us at the Arboretum Visitor Center to be inspired by our guest speaker, learn about current projects, and visit with fellow members.



## Thanks to our many volunteers—*together* we care for the Preserve

A special thank you to our many volunteers. They spread enthusiasm, share their expertise, make time, work in teams, inspire children, teach and guide, have fun exhausting themselves in hands-on work. Backed by our supportive membership, volunteers care and advocate for the Preserve and help connect the community to this treasured place.

Over 30 of our members volunteered in the field this past year, removing invasive species and planting native flowers and grasses. As Preserve Stewards, **Roma Lenehan** and **Glenda Denniston** labored tirelessly most days of the year. Volunteers also worked countless hours to keep the Friends organized, raise funds, reach out to the community, communicate with our members, participate in research projects, and lead field trips. All in all, about 50 members volunteered this past year, making the Friends the vibrant non-profit organization it is.

Our thanks also go to the Preserve staff: **Bryn Scriver**, who coordinated most field volunteer events in the Preserve; **Adam Gundlach**, who supervised the summer interns; **Laura Wyatt**, who collaborated closely with the Friends Board and volunteers, and also led a field trip; and **Gary Brown**, who makes sure the Friends voice is heard at the administrative level.



This past year, about 50 members volunteered, making the Friends the vibrant non-profit organization that it is. *Thank you!*

### Field volunteers

Ann Burgess  
 Patricia Becker  
 Janis Cooper  
 Linda Deith  
 Susan Denholm  
 Glenda Denniston  
 Gretel Dentine  
 Doris Dubielzig  
 Dick Dwelle  
 Kathi Dwelle  
 Hilde Feen  
 Peter Fisher  
 Kennedy Gilchrist  
 Sarah Goldenberg  
 and kids Henry  
 and Grace  
 Alan Goldenberg  
 Galen Hasler  
 Noriko Jackson  
 Jeff Koziol  
 Lynne Krainer  
 Gisela Kutzbach  
 John Kutzbach  
 Roma Lenehan  
 Ellen Lewis  
 Jean Meanwell



Karen Nakasone  
 Brian Riley  
 Marcia Schmidt  
 Monica Sentoff  
 Stephen Sentoff  
 Susan Slapnick  
 Steve Williams

### Organizational volunteers

Patricia Becker  
 Ann Burgess  
 Amanda Budyak  
 Susan Carpenter  
 Linda Deith  
 Diane Dempsey

Susan Denholm  
 Glenda Denniston  
 Margaret Dentine  
 David Drake  
 Doris Dubielzig  
 Richard Dubielzig  
 Peter Fisher  
 Kennedy Gilchrist  
 Corey George  
 Galen Hasler  
 Arlene Koziol  
 Jeff Koziol  
 Gisela Kutzbach  
 John Kutzbach  
 Roma Lenehan  
 Michelle Louis  
 Seth McGee  
 John Magnuson  
 David Mickelson  
 Katya Mullendore  
 Paul Noeldner  
 Mike Parsen  
 Marcia Schmidt  
 Mitchell Thomas  
 Will Waller  
 Paul Williams  
 Susan Will-Wolf

### Field trip leaders

Pat Becker  
 Paul Borowsky  
 Carolyn and  
 BJ Byers  
 Susan Carpenter  
 Susan Denholm  
 Glenda Denniston  
 Doris Dubielzig  
 Daniel Einstein  
 Marty Evanson  
 Sean Gere  
 Sarah Goldenberg  
 Chuck Hendrickson  
 Gisela Kutzbach  
 Steve Laubach  
 Roma Lenehan  
 John Magnuson  
 David Mickelson  
 Mara McDonald  
 Paul Noeldner  
 Mike Parsen  
 Fil Sanna  
 Al Shea  
 Paul Williams  
 Levi Wood  
 Laura Wyatt



THROUGH THE EYES OF STUDENTS

## Stewards for the future

By Sarah Goldenberg

I'm looking forward to going there again in the winter and hoping to see animal footprints.

Thank you for telling us about the history of the Preserve.

My favorite part of the whole tour was seeing the Indian mounds and learning about the Native American history.

This fall, Shorewood Hills Elementary School's fourth and fifth grade classes toured the Lakeshore Preserve at the Eagle Heights Woods. I invited the teachers to explore and use the Preserve as a classroom opportunity.

Over a 2-week period, 145 young students and 5 teachers met me at the Shady Lane trailhead to listen and observe. I shared some history, asked them to make some tree and leaf identifications, and especially wanted them to observe the current restoration in progress. A few of their comments are shared in the margins.

I had many intentions for bringing these students to the Preserve, but one main reason was to share the restoration that is in progress. I stopped each class that I led halfway up the hill. On one side of the path the woods were untouched, still crowded with invasive species. On the other side, where restoration work had been carried out, one could see the topography of the hillside and space between the trees. When I asked the children what differences they could notice, one girl said that the side where work had been done "looked more alive."

With just these three words, we know why as environmental stewards we work on rejuvenating natural areas. The children of Shorewood School recognized so well the natural vibrancy of the landscape, which results from biodiversity.

Representing our broad urban community, they are the hope for environmental stewardship in the future.



I loved to find the different types of trees such as the hickory and the oak. You helped me learn a lot about nature, and now I'm even getting interested.

I never knew there were rocks here that came all the way from Lake Superior!

It was fun to learn the difference between red oaks and white oaks just by looking at their leaves.

Liz R., 5<sup>th</sup> grade



## REMINISCENCES

## Early climate research at the Preserve

By John Kutzbach

My first trip from the Tent Colony pier to the Second Point Bar was by boat as a 1960 first-year graduate student in the Department of Meteorology (now Atmospheric and Oceanic Science). Today, when I walk the Lakeshore Nature Preserve path through the Tent Colony Woods, memories of my first research project come back. Memories of wind, waves, ice, and friction, and the Gallistel Cottage.

The Tent Colony pier and the Gallistel Cottage are gone, and, to be clear, the Second Point Bar was not an early campus watering hole, but a sub-surface shallowing of the bottom of Lake Mendota. The “Bar,” about 400m north of the tip of Second Point (now Frautschi Point) is only 4m below the lake surface with relatively steep falls to the west, north, and east, known as a good place to catch fish. There I caught not fish, but the “bug” of scientific curiosity.

In 1959, the Department of Meteorology conducted climate studies by erecting an instrumented steel tower anchored to the Bar, laying submarine cables to transmit data from the tower to the recently vacated Gallistel Cottage, and installing remote monitoring instruments, IBM data processing equipment, a small electronics and instrumentation shop, and storage facilities in the cottage.



▲ The change in wind speed was measured by placing bushel baskets on ice—first far apart, then close together, then piled on top of one another.

► Checking the instruments could be a dicey endeavor.

In January 1960, as a research assistant with Professor Lettau I helped complete the tower instrumentation and participated in experiments to answer the question: How much is wind slowed by friction near the earth’s surface? The nature of this question is apparent to anyone walking to Picnic Point when a strong wind blows from the north. The trees slow the wind until you reach the narrow section of treeless beach, and then you feel its full force. Likewise, a canoeist on the placid leese side shore of University Bay rounds Picnic Point and immediately copes with wind and wave.

But the science question was: Can we measure the precise frictional effect of lake water and ice, just as we measure wind speed or temperature or weight? It matters! The slowing of wind near the surface affects the flight habits of insects, the spacing of wind turbines, the pollution of cities, and the evaporation rate from vegetation.

The Bar offered the advantage of measuring one parameter at a time, unusual for outdoor earth science. The lake is a uniform surface stretching far to the west, north, and east, and when the wind is almost steady the lake becomes a lab for studying friction. Using a vertical array of precision anemometers I first measured the friction effect over bare ice. Then I placed bushel baskets on the ice—first far



apart, then close together, then piled on top of one another. As I decreased the spacing between the baskets or increased their height, I measured how much the wind slowed. In the following winter, with other students I repeated the experiments using discarded Christmas trees, creating a moveable forest on the lake. We calculated exactly how the height, spacing and size of these obstacles slowed the wind, and found that we could change the rate at which wind energy was lost by friction by a factor of 10. This information now helps scientists calculate the “friction” of natural objects such as grass, cornfields, forests, or cities, and is used worldwide to estimate the effects of wind.

I then measured the interaction between wind and waves—light wind and tiny capillary waves, strong winds and large 1–2 foot waves. The higher the waves, the larger the frictional loss of wind energy to water.

The period of intense climate-related experimentation off Second Point lasted from 1959 to 1969. Then the Second Point Bar tower, the submarine cables, and the Gallistel Cottage were removed. Now, walking the Tent Colony path and looking out at the Second Point Bar reminds me of our pioneering research and it excites me when I hear of the many research projects now underway on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve grounds.

In one such project, Professor Ankur Desai and colleagues are measuring the exchange of carbon dioxide between the lake and air using instruments installed atop the UW Safety Tower at Picnic Point. Research in this “lake ecosystem” will contribute to studies of carbon cycling worldwide—in forest, grassland, tundra, and ocean environments—both present and future.

(See the website for examples of other early climate research in the Preserve: [www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/earlyclimateresearch.html](http://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/earlyclimateresearch.html).)

**CAMPUS REDESIGN UPDATE**

# UW Master Plan: Final draft available

By Gary Brown, director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve

I am pleased to share that the UW-Madison Campus Master Plan is in final draft form and has been submitted to the City of Madison for review.

The final draft includes a proposed new Preserve Outreach Center near the base of Picnic Point that would include Preserve staff offices,

informational displays, phenology reports, a small classroom, restrooms, and an outreach/gathering space for volunteers. The plan also includes major upgrades to Willow Creek and Observatory Hill, turning these areas back into naturalized landscapes and areas for research, teaching, study, and relaxation.

the final documents and provide input to the City of Madison Plan Commission in early 2017. Prior to the City Plan Commission meeting, FP&M will be working with the adjacent neighborhood associations to present the detailed information, and meeting with the City of Madison Urban Design Commission to finalize the Campus Design Guidelines and form a newly revised Campus Design Review Board.

A joint neighborhood public meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Gordon Dining & Event Center at 770 West Dayton Street.

**Please join us** to share your support for the Campus Master Plan and the exciting changes in store for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



The Facilities Planning & Management (FP&M) staff are working closely with city planning staff, the alders, and the Joint West/Joint Southeast Campus Area Committees over the next few months to review

**I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by joining or making an additional gift.

## Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to VOLUNTEER—please send me information by email.
- I'd like to GO PAPERLESS and receive my newsletter by email.

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

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



### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

### ADDITIONAL GIFT

*(For members—does not include membership)*

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

Friends of the  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve  
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](mailto:preserveFriends@gmail.com)

*President:* Gisela Kutzbach  
*Vice President:* Peter Fisher  
*Secretary:* Doris Dubielzig  
*Treasurer:* Gretel Dentine  
*Newsletter:* Linda Deith,  
Pat Becker, Sarah Goldenberg  
*Friends Volunteer Coordinator:*  
Galen Hasler, 608-206-5218

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*Friends of the Lakeshore  
Nature Preserve* is a 501(c)(3)  
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Please visit our website: [www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com](http://www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com)



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## *Your donations make a difference!*

Throughout this newsletter you'll read about the many ways your help—both financial and in person—has directly benefited the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. This year alone,

- 10 young bluebirds and 27 tree swallows successfully fledged from our birdhouses,
- 28 field trips covered topics ranging from plants and birds to history, geology, and hydrology,
- hundreds of native plants were given root,
- untold pounds of garlic mustard were pulled,
- five summer interns, supported by the Friends, were able to translate their ecology and natural resources studies into real-life skills, and
- major financial support has gone towards restoration of Eagle Heights Woods, now in its third year.

The efforts of the Friends are vital to the restoration, preservation, and outreach activities in the Preserve's 300 acres. Your financial support makes a big difference for our 100% volunteer-driven organization. The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, making your donation tax deductible. **Please consider sending a donation of any amount** using the form on the reverse side. *Thank you!*