



# Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

SPRING 2023

## KEYNOTE TALK AT ANNUAL MEETING

### The Mendota Canoe Project: Discovery, Preservation and Ongoing Research

In 2021 maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen found a dug-out canoe in Lake Mendota that dated to AD 800. Its recovery made international news, and it was selected as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries that year. In 2022, another canoe was found in the same location; this one dates to 1,000 BC, making it the oldest canoe in the Great Lakes Region. These canoes represent 3,000 years of use of this site, starting at what we would call the Middle Archaic Period. The people were mobile hunters and

gatherers. The time frame also includes what we would call the Effigy Mound Period that saw the cultivation of crops and the creation of thousands of effigy mounds. Some were found very near the location of the canoe recoveries. Both canoes are now undergoing a three-year preservation process at the State Archival Preservation Facility. Tamara Thomsen and State Archaeologist James Skibo will discuss the discovery, recovery, preservation and ongoing research related to these finds.



Dr. Skibo and Tamara Thomsen with one of the recovered canoes.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### DR. JAMES SKIBO

*Dr. James M. Skibo is the Wisconsin State Archaeologist at the Wisconsin Historical Society. As the people's archaeologist, he is responsible for using the state's 36,000 archaeological sites to tell our rich history. Prior to this appointment, he was a Distinguished Professor at Illinois State University where he wrote or edited 11 books and dozens of peer-reviewed articles on pottery, archaeological theory and the archaeology of the Great Lakes. He has worked in the Philippines, the American Southwest and for twenty years, on the south shore of Lake Superior.*

### TAMARA THOMSEN

*Tamara Thomsen is a maritime archaeologist with the Wisconsin Historical Society Maritime Preservation and Archaeology Program. Her research has resulted in the nomination of 59 submerged sites to the National Register of Historic Places. She has received awards from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society. In 2014, she was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame.*



## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

In-person at the UW Arboretum or virtually via Zoom

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and socializing.  
The public is welcome. Please bring a friend.



rayrob

All are invited to the Friends' 22nd Annual Meeting! Those who arrive early will enjoy time to socialize, view exhibits and find their seats before the official program begins at 7:00 pm CST. Those who wish to attend virtually should look for more information soon on our website. Distinguished speakers Tamara Thomsen and Dr.

Jim Skibo will guide us on a deep dive into the discovery and recovery of two ancient canoes from the bottom of Lake Mendota. The Director of the UW Office of Sustainability, Missy Nergard, and Preserve Assistant Director, Laura Wyatt, will speak on the state of the Preserve. Additionally, UW Landscape Architect Rhonda James will update

us on the Preserve Master Plan and Outreach Center Projects. Friends President Will Vuyk will deliver the Friends' Annual Report, and the Board of Directors will honor its retiring members before introducing our newest nominees. Mark your calendars for a full evening of learning and friendship!

## Marveling at Mayapple

Tom Morgan

A mayapple colony in Bill's Woods must have begun from a seed. A thin stem unfurled a deeply-lobed, umbrella-shaped leaf, familiar to many. This mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, may have been five years old before producing a rhizome, and each year thereafter may have produced an additional stem from a new rhizome node. When 12 years old, the colony sent up a stem that forked, producing two leaves. A beautiful white flower bloomed from that fork. Although slow to produce fruit, a mayapple colony may survive a century.

Its fruits are the largest of any plant native to deciduous forests in Wisconsin. A two-inch long yellow fruit is uncommonly seen, however, as many animals love them, especially turtles. Although people enjoy the taste of ripe mayapple, it is not widely celebrated. The unripe fruit may be poisonous, as are other parts of the plant, and some say that the ripe fruit should be eaten in moderation. It is true that mayapple's bitter lignan, podophyllotoxin, is deadly in large quantities. Yet mayapple has been used as a medicine by Native Americans, and it does have valuable medicinal properties.

Although the paw paw tree is not native to Wisconsin, listing similarities between the mayapple and the northern Illinois paw paw may be a quick way to summarize characteristics of mayapple. Both plants are seldom browsed because of bad-tasting compounds in their foliage which may render them resistant to insect attack. Both species invest modest amounts of energy in fruits and more in asexual reproduction. Mayapple has rhizomes, while paw

paw suckers to grow new trees. Neither the mayapple nor the pawpaw flowers are quickly pollinated, and it is possible that the most important pollinators of mayapple have not been identified. The blossoms have no nectar, but beetles are not attracted to nectar. Mayapple might have beetle pollination syndrome which can include a fragrance similar to decaying material. The fragrance of mayapple blossoms is "putrid," "nauseating," or "unpleasantly strong and sweet," while pawpaw blossoms are "yeasty," or like "fermenting grapes."



Glenda Denniston

A mature stand of mayapple blooming in Bill's Woods.

In the early nineteenth century, the Meskwaki (Fox) tribe of Wisconsin preserved some of the mayapple fruit for later use. It is possible today to make a marmalade out of the fruit, as Glenda Denniston has done. Box turtles and raccoons also enjoy feasting on it and disperse viable seed. We have been fascinated by this plant, calling it raccoon berry, wild mandrake and ground lemon. Glenda Denniston's daughters even named mayapples, "turtle plants." A harbinger of spring in the Preserve, as much as our returning waterfowl and warblers, mayapple spreads its marvelous leaves beneath our canopies.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

# Spring & Summer Field Trips

2023

Jeff Steele

## April

### 2 Lichens of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.*

Learn about the lichens of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We will stroll the paths on Picnic Point, looking for lichens growing on trees and rocks. Lichens are a very hardy (visible year-round) symbiosis mostly of a fungus and an alga – learn more on the walk. In preparation for this field trip, you might want to download to your cell phone the guide “Lichens of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve” from [https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/uploads/2/6/9/3/26931781/lichensin-preservebeginners2021\\_web.pdf](https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/uploads/2/6/9/3/26931781/lichensin-preservebeginners2021_web.pdf). You could read the first couple of pages of this ahead of time – not, however, necessary! Be sure to dress warmly and wear waterproof boots if you have them, just in case. If you have a hand magnifier and want to bring it, you will have a chance to use it. And please remember – no collecting! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Susan Will-Wolf ([swwolf@wisc.edu](mailto:swwolf@wisc.edu)).

### 16 Beyond Backyard Birding: Lakeshore Nature Preserve

*Sunday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.*

This morning trip is especially for backyard birders looking to grow their skills! Come to have your bird questions answered and receive help identifying all of those small, streaky brown birds. We'll also be keeping our eyes out for any exciting spring migrants. The walk will be on even trails at a leisurely pace, so bring the whole family! We will have binoculars for loan. This walk is co-sponsored with Madison Audubon. NOTE: This trip is limited to 20 people. Registration is required at : <https://madisonaudu->

### 16 2023 Science Expeditions at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

*Sunday, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.*

On April 16, the Friends will offer a Destination for Exploration as part of the three-day UW campus-wide “Science Expeditions” Open House. At the entrance to Picnic Point, near the stone wall, friendly guides will give each person a booklet containing a map of Picnic Point with our four exploration stations indicated on it. The guides will direct visitors to the stations sited along the path to the tip of Picnic Point. The booklet also contains activities and challenges related to those four stations. Bring your children for a fantastic learning experience!

At the Rock Wall, DNR hydrogeologist Philip Fauble and Science Olympiad coach Scot Moss will introduce visitors to the origins and kinds of rocks in the stone wall. At the Tree Station, Friends board members Matt Chotlos, botanist Josh Sulman and Friends President Will Vuyk will help visitors identify leafless trees and calculate tree age. On the hillside inside the stone wall, a Birding Station will be hosted by gifted naturalists Paul Noeldner, Cole Roecker and Chuck Keleny. They will provide strategies for identifying birds, binoculars and a spotting scope for guests to look into the spring sky and across the lake. At Fire Circle #2, archaeologist Amy Rosebrough will talk about

the Effigy Mounds and the native people who created the earthen mounds on Picnic Point and nearby areas.

For more information about Science Expeditions, please visit: <https://science.wisc.edu/science-expeditions/>

For pictures of the 2022 Friends activities at Science Expeditions, check out <https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/people-events/archives/04-2022>

### 23 Wildflowers of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve (FUN)

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

On this family-friendly hike, explore the first Friends’ restoration project, begun in 2001. We will look for spring ephemerals and other tender new growth. Learn how to identify wood phlox, violet, bloodroot, Jacob’s ladder, wild strawberry and other wildflowers. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Glenda Denniston ([glendadenniston8@gmail.com](mailto:glendadenniston8@gmail.com), 608-231-1530).

## May

### 17 Warblers of Fraitschi Point

*Wednesday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.*

We will focus on seeing warblers through leafy foliage and also look for other spring migrants. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at the Fraitschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leaders: Roma Lenahan ([rlenahan@charter.net](mailto:rlenahan@charter.net), 608-238-5406) and Jill Feldkamp.

### 20 Amazing Audible Amphibians

*Saturday, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.*

After sunset, springtime ponds and wetlands come alive with the calls of frogs and toads. Join DNR Conservation Biologist Rori Paloski and Friends President Will



Vuyk on a search for as many species of frogs, tree frogs and toads that we can hear. Meet us at the entrance to Picnic Point. From there we will use our ears to explore the marshes of University Bay and Picnic Point peninsula. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Will Vuyk (wvuyk@wisc.edu) and Rori Paloski.

**28 Martins and Bluebirds (FUN)**  
*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

The purple martin house and the Bluebird Trail at the Biocore Prairie were installed by the Friends to entice these birds to nest in the Preserve. Field trip leaders will describe the appearance, habits and nesting behaviors of purple martins and bluebirds. Leaders will also describe the Friends' efforts to protect birds from their enemies. Hopefully you'll get a peek at some baby birds, too! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Jeff Kozio! (jeffkozio!@gmail.com, 847-331-2430) and Richard Ness (Richard.s.ness@wisc.edu).

**June**

**3 Beginning Birders: Meet the Birds of the Prairie**

*Saturday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.*  
*Rain Date: June 17, 2023*

Join Anna Walther of Madison Audubon to celebrate National Prairie Day by getting to know the birds of the Biocore Prairie! Participants can expect to see, hear and learn to identify some of the many bird species found in this tallgrass prairie. We will meet at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve entrance and walk to the Biocore Prairie together. Binoculars and field guides will be available, and participants are welcome to contact the trip leader with requests and accommodations. While there is a walking path around the prairie, some areas have rough terrain and tall grasses, so ath-

**14 Lake Mendota Boat Trip**  
*Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.*  
*Rain Date: June 16, 2023*

Learn about Lake Mendota and the shoreline of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve from a different perspective aboard LIMNOS2, the UW Center for Limnology's research vessel for teaching, research and outreach. Group size is limited to 12; reserve your place early for this popular field trip. Meet at Hasler Limnology Laboratory one block west of Memorial Union. Register with Leader John Magnuson (john.magnuson@wisc.edu).

**25 Preserving the Preserve (FUN)**  
*Sunday, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.*

Join UW Preserve staff as they showcase ongoing ecological restoration projects and give an update on the Preserve Master Plan—all the while enjoying the trails, sights and sounds of the Preserve in summer. Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leaders: Preserve Staff (contact: bryn.scriver@wisc.edu).

**July**

**16 Summer Citizen Science Sampler**

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Did you miss the Friends Spring Citizen Science Sampler or just want to learn more? Summer brings a whole new season of citizen science opportunities! Join us to learn about ways to

letic shoes and long socks/pants are recommended. This walk is co-sponsored with Madison Audubon. NOTE: Participation is limited to 12 people. Advance registration is required at (<https://madisonaudubon.org/all-events/2023/6/3/beginning-birders-prairie>). Registration opens six weeks in advance, April 22. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Anna Walther (awalther2@wisc.edu, 262-237-9343).

contribute to citizen science in the Preserve and beyond by observing plants and insects and more! All you need is your curiosity; we'll provide you training to get started! Citizen Science is one of the best ways to gather biological data (monitoring) in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, which drives future management decisions. Your help and interest are appreciated! Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Coordinated by Anne Pearce (anne.pearce@wisc.edu).

**23 Class of 1918 Marsh (FUN)**  
*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Take a hike around the marsh to learn the history and biology of this wetland. John Magnuson will discuss the threats to the marsh from invasive cattail species and from chloride concentrations, drawing on his own research. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: John Magnuson (john.magnuson@wisc.edu).

**August**

**27 An Introduction to the Lovely Mosses and Other Bryophytes of UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve (FUN)**

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join doctoral candidate Brandon Corder with the UW Department of Botany for a fascinating nature walk. Look for and learn about the miniature worlds of mosses and ferns that border the Lakeshore Preserve paths. Brandon will demonstrate how to use the iNaturalist app to help you identify plants, learn interesting facts about them and report sightings as citizen science for research. Free, welcoming, student and family friendly! Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Brandon Corder (bcorder@wisc.edu).



Paul Noeldner



Paul Noeldner

*Cold and snow do not deter nature and birding participants!*



Kelly Kearns



Kelly Kearns

*Looking at a daddy long-legs and a spider web on a basswood, night arachnid field trip.*

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE: Focus on an Outreach Center

*Rhonda H. James, PLA, ASL, Senior Landscape Architect*

After an extensive planning process with widespread public and expert input, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update is nearly complete. We want to express a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for their financial support toward this effort.

Preliminary planning for a Preserve Outreach Center began in 2022. The building will house the Preserve operations, offices, public restrooms, gathering space and interpretive area. The site option being advanced is per the Master Plan and is outside the stone wall in the general area of Lot 130 and University Bay Drive. With consistent input from Preserve staff, the consultants have been studying many draft plans for this outreach center. The location depends on a list of constraints and complex relations, such as ecology; access; traffic patterns (pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle); nearness to Lake Mendota and the marsh; aesthetics and safety. One perceptive concern brought forward by Friends members focused on whether the Outreach Center would actually be inside the Preserve proper, or simply sited adjacent to it, thus protecting as much of the natural habitat as possible.

The first public information meeting held in December, 2022, showed four potential locations. The meeting recording and materials can be accessed from <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/>. The consulting group listened deeply, translating ideas and comments into patterns that then steered the process. A second public meeting, scheduled for spring, will unveil the desired

location, building concept and potential sustainable practices. Dates will be posted on the Preserve website as they become available.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center is one important component of the Master Plan. The document itself records the process of creating a ten-year, long-range plan: the input, inventory, analysis and recommendations that will guide work in the Preserve. An early focus on core values and guiding principles was informed by the updated mission and vision. Exciting recommendations cover the entirety of the Preserve and suggest improvements for all aspects of protection, management and use. In spring 2023, the plan will be shared with the Preserve Committee and Facilities Planning & Management Leadership for review and adoption. See the link to the details at <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/>.

Once the Master Plan is adopted, the next step is to identify priorities. What should be implemented first? What critical protections and developments are most important? At this point, the hard work of raising necessary funds begins. We are fortunate to partner with the University of Wisconsin Foundation which provides fiduciary oversight and stewardship of Preserve funds.

The university provides basic services to support the Preserve. All ecological restoration and/or development efforts are supported by gift funds. Opportunities for you to make a difference will be available soon. If you have additional questions, please contact Assistant Director Laura Wyatt ([laura.wyatt@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisc.edu)).



# Thank you, Friends volunteers!

The Friends had a year full of activities in 2022, and we couldn't do what we do without our volunteers!

We hosted our annual Garlic Mustard Pull at Frautschi Point and Wildflower Planting on Picnic Point in the spring. Throughout the growing season, volunteers continued monitoring for our ongoing citizen science projects: the Biocore Bluebird Trail, the purple martin house, and lake quality monitoring in University Bay. Stay tuned for more citizen science opportunities in the coming year. Check out our president's announcement in this issue about an upcoming Citizen Science Sampler this spring.

Our field trip committee assembled an impressive slate of trips, aiming to host at least two opportunities per month. A huge thanks to our trip leaders for sharing their knowledge and talents.

Additionally, volunteers dedicated significant hours to organizational tasks, such as board and committee meetings, managing memberships, organizing the annual meeting and contributing to and producing this newsletter. Overall, 67 individuals volunteered with the Friends in 2022.

Please consider these volunteer opportunities in 2023:

- **Citizen Science:** Blue Bird Trail, purple martin house, Lake Mendota water quality, and more!
- **Friends committee work** in education, communication, membership or outreach
- Contributions to the **newsletter, blog** and **website**
- **Field work**, such as removal of invasives or planting wildflowers
- **Field trips**, including offering suggestions for topics and leaders

Contact our Friends volunteer coordinator, Anne Pearce ([anne.pearce@wisc.edu](mailto:anne.pearce@wisc.edu)), if you are interested in any opportunities or to submit corrections to our list of volunteers.



Kelly Kearns



Kelly Kearns



Kelly Kearns

## FIELD TRIP VOLUNTEERS

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Becky Abel         | John Magnuson     |
| Phil Brown         | Seth McGee        |
| Susan Carpenter    | Scot Moss         |
| Matt Chotlos       | Richard Ness      |
| Glenda Denniston   | Paul Noeldner     |
| Doris Dubielzig    | Aaron Nolan       |
| Eve Emshwiller     | Ashley Olah       |
| Philip Fauble      | Anne Pearce       |
| Jill Feldkamp      | Paul Quinlan      |
| Guilherme Gainett  | Marjorie Rhine    |
| Dane Gallagher     | Cole Roecker      |
| Adam Gundlach      | Jenn Schneiderman |
| Sonia Haeckel      | Bryn Sriver       |
| Chuck Henrikson    | Steve Sellwood    |
| Signe Holtz        | Diana Tapia Ramon |
| Kelly Kearns       | Marie Trest       |
| Chuck Keleny       | Will Vuyk         |
| Jeff Koziol        | Laura Wyatt       |
| Siddharth Kulkarni | Tom C T Yin       |
| Gisela Kutzbach    | Tom Zinnen        |
| Roma Lenehan       |                   |

## ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Breden           | Seth McGee        |
| Tom Bryan              | MJ Morgan         |
| Matt Chotlos           | Tom Morgan        |
| Sarah Congdon          | Paul Noeldner     |
| Glenda Denniston       | Anne Pearce       |
| Doris Dubielzig        | Paul Quinlan      |
| Eve Emshwiller         | Janice Rice       |
| Dane Gallagher         | Cole Roecker      |
| Adam Gundlach          | Marcia Schmidt    |
| Signe Holtz            | Steve Sellwood    |
| Rhonda James           | Josh Sulman       |
| Kelly Kearns           | Diana Tapia Ramon |
| Gisela Kutzbach        | Katie Umhoefer    |
| Roma Lenehan           | Will Vuyk         |
| Reba Luiken            | Tom Zinnen        |
| Olympia Mathiapparanam |                   |

## FIELD AND PROJECT (CITIZEN SCIENCE) VOLUNTEERS

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Laura Berger       | Nancy Lindroth      |
| Ann Burgess        | Rick Lindroth       |
| Matt Chotlos       | John Marszal        |
| Maggi Christianson | Seth McGee          |
| Glenda Denniston   | Genevieve Murtaugh  |
| Doris Dubielzig    | Karen Nakasone      |
| Kathi Dwelle       | Richard Ness        |
| Pam Fornell        | Biz Nitschke        |
| Chuck Henrikson    | Marcia Schmidt      |
| Kelly Kearns       | Rilo Sriver-Nondorf |
| Jeff Koziol        | Susan Slapnick      |
| Gisela Kutzbach    | Diana Tapia Ramon   |
| Roma Lenehan       | Will Vuyk           |
| David Liebl        |                     |

## Goodbye to Two Amazing Friends Volunteers

Roma Lenehan and MJ Morgan

In the fall of 2022, two nearly irreplaceable volunteers retired, continuing as Friends members and passionate advocates for the Preserve. They have worn many hats and contributed so much to the Friends via different committees,

leadership or quiet, behind-the-scenes work; after they left, the board realized it would take multiple members to now handle the responsibilities they shouldered for two decades! We thank you, Marcia and Gisela.

### MARCIA SCHMIDT



Gisela Kutzbach

Marcia Schmidt has worked with the Friends since the organization's beginning. Many today will not know she grew up in Indiana and Ohio or that she studied chemistry. In Madison, she worked at American Printing and later got to know Roma Lenehan, who also has been instrumental since the Friends were founded. Marcia compiled the first mailing list used for the successful initial membership drive. She helped design the first newsletter, note cards and most other forms used by the Friends. Detail oriented, she proofread the newsletter and website for more than a decade. She helped plan and organize three Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thons; and she participated and helped with multiple garlic

mustard work parties as well as tirelessly removing this invasive throughout the Preserve for over 17 years. Marcia was a member of the communications committee from 2006 to 2012. She served on the Friends board as treasurer from 2007 to 2014. From 2012 through 2022, Marcia was pivotal in the membership committee, reminding members when their memberships expired and thanking them for their donations. As we now have well over 300 members, this commitment has grown for Marcia, but she stayed with it. For more than twenty years, Marcia Schmidt has served behind the scenes, helping the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve succeed. Thank you, Marcia.

### GISELA KUTZBACH



Chuck Henrikson

Another member of the Friends from early days, Gisela has been a formidable powerhouse of organization, creativity and vision. Born in Berlin, Germany, she married

climatologist John Kutzbach, meeting him as she studied climatology in the UW graduate program. They settled in Shorewood, so close to what would become the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and then the focus of the Friends' mission. In fact, it was Gisela who led the effort to revise our mission statement to the simple, memorable vow that it is today. Gisela says that she and John loved the Preserve since student days. After retiring from UW, working with the Friends for the Preserve became her passion and great joy. Her legacies to us have surely been hallmark Friends projects, for which she was able to inspire and lead teams of dedicated Friends. President for three years, Gisela steered the proposal and fundraising of the Heritage Oak Project, raising \$14,000 in 2011 to save this historic bur oak in its small, lovely opening. She was instrumental in the

Eagle Heights Rejuvenation Project, 2014-2015, working with many other Friends and Preserve staff, raising \$140,000 to rejuvenate these rich oak woodlands above Lake Mendota. Members today will know Gisela from her work on the Bluebird Trail project as well as the purple martin house initiative, which she coordinated for many years. Website creation and design, the board handbook, brochures, our blog – these also originated through Gisela's technological talents and foresight. Like Marcia Schmidt, with whom she worked on the membership committee for many years, her commitment has been unflagging. Although she now lives in Evanston, Illinois, near her daughter's family, she has truly been a geyser of ideas and practical suggestions for the Friends and an indefatigable volunteer. Thank you, Gisela.



### BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

## Nominees to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board

The Friends' nominating committee—Kelly Kearns (chair) and Dlana Tapia Ramon—recommends the following candidates. The board has endorsed this recommendation. Other candidates may be nominated by the membership at the annual meeting. All current members of the Friends of the Preserve present at the annual meeting (April 12, 2023) are eligible to vote. Board members are elected for three-year terms; two student board members are elected for one-year terms.



### YARA AL-RAYYAN

Yara Al-Rayyan is a sophomore studying biochemistry with certificates in global health and bio-core. She is honored to be nominated to the board. Born in Jordan, she has lived in Shorewood Hills for six years and has always appreciated being so close to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The Preserve has been a great refuge for her, from taking sunrise walks up to Picnic Point to reading by the lake's edge. In the spring and summer, Yara enjoys biking and gardening with her family at the Eagle Heights Community Garden.



### MICHELLE CHUNG

Michelle, originally from Janesville, is a recent UW-Madison graduate who majored in biology and environmental studies. She is currently a communications specialist at the Wisconsin Energy Institute. A lover of fire and songbirds, she has a second home in Biocore Prairie. Michelle has been a friend to all the birds, plants and spaces of the Preserve for her years as an undergrad in Madison and is extremely excited to be an official Friend of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



### INGRID JORDON-THADEN

Ingrid Jordon-Thaden is currently the Director of the Botany Garden and Greenhouse at UW Madison (<https://livingcollection.botany.wisc.edu/>) for the Department of Botany where she

also teaches their non-majors course, Survey of Botany. She has been in Madison since she started that position in November, 2017. Before this, she has lived in Berkeley, California; central Pennsylvania; Gainesville, Florida; and Heidelberg, Germany. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, she obtained her undergraduate and master's degrees from University of Nebraska- Lincoln in horticulture, chemistry and biology. She obtained her doctorate in mustard systematics at the University of Heidelberg, where she became interested in the evolution of alpine and arctic plants. Her research interests are focused on the evolution of alpine plant populations (<https://jordonthaden.botany.wisc.edu/>). Ingrid's hobbies include yoga, watercolor painting, aquascaping

(aquaria with fish and live plants), alpine plant gardening and mountain hiking.



### MALACHI PERSCHE

Malachi grew up in the Baraboo Hills where he lived on many different farms, immersed in the ecology and lore of southern Wisconsin. With a bachelor's degree in soil science from UW-Madison, Malachi has been involved in urban agriculture and ecological restoration in Madison since 2015. As a co-founder of the Eagle Heights Mutual Aid Garden, he grows gardens that integrate sustainable crop production, wildlife habitat and community involvement. In his free time, he likes building sheds and greenhouses, playing fiddle and planting too many trees in his orchard.



### MASON POLENCHECK

Mason is a sophomore at UW-Madison, double majoring in zoology and microbiology. He grew up in Ashland, Wisconsin, and learned to love nature through hunting, fishing and exploring the outdoors. He enjoys researching mudpuppies in Wisconsin and can talk about them for hours on end. Mason first discovered the Friends through the Biocore Program and was immediately intrigued by their focus on both nature and educating the community. He hopes to contribute his passion and knowledge of water and aquatic life to the mission of the Friends.

*Farewell to Desevring Board Members*

The board says farewell to retiring members **Nancy Breden** (Vice President and Membership); **Kelly Kearns** (Nominating Committee, Field Trips, Prairie Partner Interns); **Paul Quinlan** (Secretary); and student representative **Cole Roecker** (newsletter contributor, Field Trips). These board members have been exceptionally hard working and contributory, some serving six years. We will miss their ideas and commitment.

Join us at the Annual Meeting April 12 to see them honored.



**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

# Continuity in Community: The Foundation of the Friends

*Will Vuyk, president*

The beauty of the Friends is not just the inspiration we evoke to “connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve” but also the community we create while doing so. The Friends is an organization built upon the spirit of working together. Volunteerism and camaraderie - coupled with a passion for the Preserve - have long brought Friends together to make a difference larger than any single one of us could muster. Thus it was crucial for us this year, after emerging from last winter’s Omicron surge, to find ways to responsibly gather and nurture the relationships that are integral to this organization.

In re-building our community this year, we faced an architectural puzzle. Two of our longstanding cornerstones, Gisela Kutzbach and Marcia Schmidt, made their graceful exits in the fall. Many thanks and well wishes to them as they move on to new places and communities of their own. They are always welcome back here with us! Please read more about their illustrious careers with the Friends in this issue.

While it has been difficult to fill the large gaps left by Marcia and Gisela, we have made do, as always, by coming together and pitching in. Experienced board members like Vice President Nancy Breden and Volunteer Coordinator Anne Pearce have been indispensable in helping with membership and website management respectively, but many of our new board members have stepped up and brought fresh ideas of their own.

Reba Luiken has helped Nancy keep our membership committee functioning without Marcia, and she was also crucial in organizing our September Social at Allen Centennial Gardens.

Organizing further social events, Tom Zinnen helped bring UW Science Expeditions to the Preserve, found space for our restored in-person board meetings and coordinated three “Wednesday Nite at the Lab” talks co-promoted by the Friends.

Josh Sulman has applied his ecological expertise to heading up our long-term monitoring initiative with Preserve staff in advance of the new Master Plan. Cole Roecker shared his passion for birds on a number of field trips this year and has further connected us with the UW Madison Student Audubon Society. All in all, he has introduced scores of students to the Preserve. Diana Tapia Ramon, sensing a need to expand awareness about what we do, designed a sign to make Friends field trips more welcoming. Note this sign at the bottom right and begin looking for it on field trips this spring. We will have more big shoes to fill when Kelly Kearns, Nancy Breden and Paul Quinlan leave us this April, but thanks to Diana’s work on the nominating committee, we have an exciting, qualified slate of new board nominees.

So it goes with the Friends. As our continual – and expected -- turnover demonstrates, people join us and people leave, but it is our fellowship and commitment to the Preserve that hold true through time. When we gather to build relationships and work together, we foster the core spirit of this organization and ensure its persistence beyond our individual involvement. For the Friends in our past and for the Friends yet to come, thank you for contributing to this wonderful community today. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to another year of camaraderie ahead!

# 2022 Annual Financial Report

*Steve Sellwood, treasurer*

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$85,083</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$28,697</b>
Memberships	\$22,036
Donations (non-members)	\$3,300
Gifts in Honor or Memorial	\$2,800
Dividends and interest	\$561
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-\$17,894</b>
Prairie Partners Summer Interns	-\$7,758
Gift to UW Preserve Stewardship Fund	-\$4,000
Newsletter and Website	-\$2,099
Special Projects and Citizen Science	-\$1,467
Postage and PO Box	-\$824
Annual Meeting	-\$771
Insurance	-\$450
Field Trip Voice Amplifier	-\$289
Other Expenses	-\$238
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$95,886</b>



**Hello There!**  
 “Friends of the  
 Lakeshore Nature  
 Preserve field trip  
 happening now, feel  
 free to join us.”



FRIENDS of  
 LAKESHORE NATURE  
 PRESERVE

PLANT COMMUNITY CREATORS

# Turtles... Then and Now in the Preserve

MJ Morgan

In 1879, a fifty-pound snapping turtle slid out of autumn mud and was captured. The Class of 1918 Marsh was then a wetland stretching back from Lake Mendota, a rich, mucky expanse. Fallen saplings lay amid water pools and sedges. With lake overflows, the wetland became prime hunting grounds for this snapper, who especially enjoyed water beetles. His grayish shell was likely fuzzed with dark green moss, providing him camouflage. Unlike other wetland turtles, he did not often bask in summer sun; for a dry, hot shell grows no moss. His fleshy body seemed to burst out of its shell, making snappers the largest of all Wisconsin turtles.

More important than this single immense turtle, however, is the world of turtles he came from. By June, spiny softshells swam in the lake, their curved snouts poking out of the water. Painted turtles sat in convivial arcs on winter debris in Willow Creek. Blanding's turtles, their high, dark shells dotted with gold, lumbered along the creek margins. And an ornate box turtle, Wisconsin's only native land turtle, left her sandy burrow and began a climb up the thickety incline towards what is today Bill's Woods. Perhaps she was looking for a nesting site, as all turtles lay eggs in the uplands. Perhaps she knew it was fruiting time for mayapples, a prized food. Determined, muscular, pulling herself uphill, she was also maintaining a record: a climbing box turtle has the most efficient energy use of any living creature.

Of Wisconsin's 11 native turtle species, four have been confirmed in the Preserve today: snappers, painted turtles, the aquatic spiny softshell turtle and Blanding's turtle, only recently removed from the DNR endangered list. Non-native Eastern box turtles are also here. In 1879, there were probably more species and many more turtles

in general. It takes imagination to populate the wetlands, hills and Picnic Point with thriving turtles. And they had a role to play, especially box turtles. Preserve habitat today is dramatically altered, with a paved road dividing the marsh from the uplands. Turtles seeking places for egg-laying or foraging must cross University Bay Drive or the paved walking path along Picnic Point. But in the 1870s and long before, small box turtles made those trips, heaving themselves up wooded slopes again and again.

Today we know that turtles disperse seeds into ecosystems in ways birds cannot. Land turtles especially love mayapples and will eat the fruit as it slowly ripens. By late summer, box turtles are searching for fallen blackberries, pokeberries and raspberries. They are omnivorous, eating worms and many insects; they scavenge for carrion as well. However, much of their diet as adults is plant based. Thus the seeds of wild geranium, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild grape or black cherry are carried deep into woodlands where birds do not usually fly. A turtle moves along, roughing up the soil, but fecal matter often contains only one or two seeds. The small number eliminates the seed clusters in bird or mammal droppings, which can produce choked stands of stems fighting for space and light.

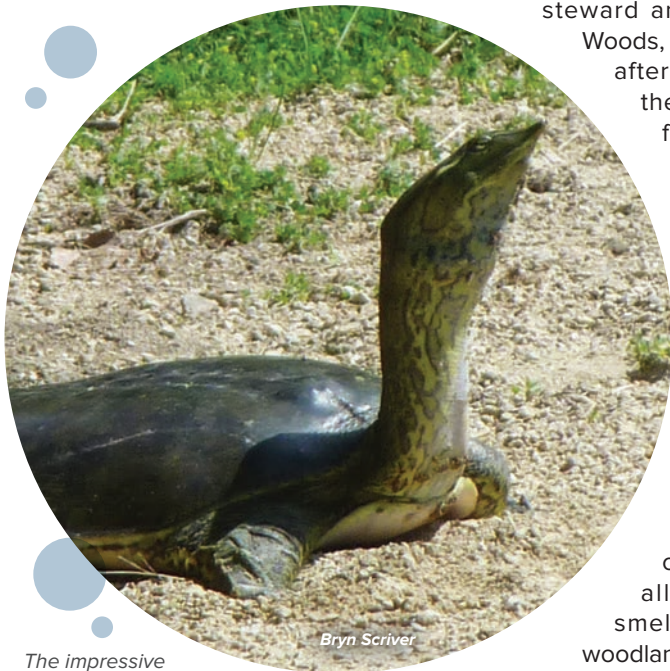


A snapping turtle (top) and a Blanding's turtle make their homes in the Preserve.

Glenda Denniston

Seed dispersal in highly-fragmented areas is regarded as integral in restoring ecosystems and maintaining healthy communities. Turtles transport seeds into areas where they have a good chance of germinating. Studies show that mayapple and jack-in-the-pulpit seeds have higher germination rates after passing through box turtle intestines.

A female box turtle's home range is larger than a male's, but an average for both is about 4.6 acres. That range in the Preserve once meant a vital traffic in box turtles seeking moist forest floors. We do not have good numbers for reptiles living here even 25 years ago. Sometimes the evidence must be inferred from what we find. Glenda Denniston, Preserve steward and caretaker of Bill's Woods, remembers that shortly after the establishment of the Friends in 2001, she found but a single stand of mayapple growing alone in Bill's Woods. Although mayapple spreads into large colonies through rhizomes, the first plant comes from a seed. Perhaps sometime in the 1980s, a box turtle enjoyed a mayapple fruit in Big Woods. She moved on, meandering eventually into Bill's Woods, smelling the damp, fresh woodland soil. Raising her head and looking cautiously around, she dropped a mayapple seed.



*The impressive neck, head and snout of a spiny softshell turtle usually seen swimming in Lake Mendota.*

Bryn Scriver



## FRIENDS CITIZEN SCIENCE

*Help us better understand the place we love*

Take part in research with the Friends as we learn more about the Preserve together. With the new Preserve Master Plan nearing completion, it is ever more important to begin collecting ecological data to help Preserve staff assess and adjust their management plans. Have a predilection for plants? Do you get amped up about amphibians? Are you inspired by insects? Bonkers for birds? Stay tuned for more information about our "Citizen Science Sampler" event coming later this spring. All you need to pitch in are your interests, curiosity and readiness to explore! Your involvement can help build crucial baseline data for long-term ecological monitoring.

**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.
- I'd like to give a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP**. Name and address:

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

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

Or complete the form and **pay online** at [www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com](http://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com)

Join  Renew  Addl. Gift

### MEMBERSHIP & GIFTS

- Student . . . . . \$10
- Individual . . . . . \$20
- Family . . . . . \$35
- Prairie Friends . . . . . \$50
- Wetland Friends. . . . . \$100
- Woodland Friends . . . \$250
- Other . . . . . \$\_\_\_\_\_

*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

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 [preserve-Friends@gmail.com](mailto:preserve-Friends@gmail.com)

*President:* Will Vuyk

*Vice President:* Nancy Breden

*Secretary:* Paul Quinlan

*Treasurer:* Steve Sellwood

*Field trips:* Signe Holtz,

Doris Dubielzig, advisor

*Newsletter:* MJ Morgan, Katie

Umhoefer

*Friends Volunteer Coordinator:*

Anne Pearce

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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](http://www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com)

## More Ways To Get Involved – Join Us!



### **GARLIC MUSTARD PULL**

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1–3:30 P.M.**

**RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1–3:30 P.M.**

Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot.



### **SPRING PLANTING**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 9 A.M. – NOON**

**RAIN DATE: MONDAY, MAY 15, 9 A.M. – NOON**

Meet at Picnic Point entrance.

### **BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST!**

Enrollment for the September 5, 2023, Wisconsin Master Naturalist class begins August 1. A hybrid approach will be offered by co-hosts UW Preserve and the UW Arboretum. To learn more, please go to <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/2023/02/03/become-a-master-naturalist/>



### **CALL FOR PRESERVE TRAIL MONITORS**

Consider becoming a trail monitor, one of a dedicated group who patrol the Preserve trails once a week during warmer months, checking trail conditions. For more information, see the following link: <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/2023/02/03/seeking-preserve-trail-monitors/>