



# Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

SPRING 2024

## KEYNOTE TALK AT ANNUAL MEETING

### Dilution is NOT the Solution to Pollution: *How Amphibians, Parasites and You Can Help Us Understand the Complex Effects of Pollutants on Wildlife*

*Dr. Jessica Hua, UW Associate Professor, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology*

Research in the Hua Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison seeks to understand how human activities influence freshwater ecosystems. We also study how outreach and citizen science initiatives influence community perception and understanding of science.

My talk will highlight the Hua Lab's research in two areas. First, I will describe unexpected negative (and

positive) ways that "low" levels of pollutants (road salt, antibiotics and pesticides) can affect amphibians and other wildlife. I will also discuss how art and children's books can be used to engage community members in citizen science that aims to protect amphibians. We focus on amphibians because they are currently regarded as the most threatened vertebrates on earth.



#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

##### DR. JESSICA HUA

*I am associate professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison. I received my bachelor's degree in biology and kinesiology at Southwestern University in 2008 and in 2014, my doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh in ecology and evolution. I then moved to Purdue University to study disease ecology as a postdoctoral fellow. In 2015, I moved to SUNY Binghamton where I was an assistant and associate professor and where I served as the Director for the Center for Watershed Studies; I moved to UW-Madison in 2022.*



Photos provided by Jessica Hua



## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

In-person at the UW Arboretum

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



Jeff Steele

All are invited to the Friends' 23rd 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. Please note: we will not be offering a virtual attendance option this year.

Distinguished speaker Dr. Jessica Hua will present on her lab's research and community engagement efforts relating to the impacts of pollutants on amphibian populations. Look forward as well to updates on the Outreach Center Campaign and more news from the

UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve Team. 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. Bring your friendship, your vote and your one-of-a-kind self!

## Living Lab: Nurturing Knowledge and Cultivating Curiosity, One Preserve Project at a Time

Yara AL-Rayyan

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been a hub of research activities for decades. In 2023 alone, approximately seventy Teaching and Research Permits were awarded from 25 different sources, showcasing the diverse and collaborative nature of research and education in the Preserve. The university has offered Student Engagement Grants to study many aspects of the Preserve, from observing bumble bee colonies to investigating the soil of the Biocore Prairie. The Prairie Partner program provides an opportunity for interns to learn

tools and techniques of native habitat management, plant identification and principles of restoration ecology while helping restore beautiful and productive habitats. The Preserve has been a classroom for numerous UW courses and students, contributing significantly to the Preserve's narrative and enriching our understanding of the natural world.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is also abuzz with the enthusiasm of citizen scientists. From herbaceous vegetation monitoring in Eagle Heights Woods to

the quest by FLNP President Will Vuyk to find and identify snakes, the Preserve is a hub for citizen scientists. This year, the Friends helped kick off the Friends of Amphibians initiative led by Jessica Hua's lab. Birding stands out as one of the most popular citizen science activities, a cherished pastime chronicling the migratory and resident bird life that graces our surroundings. Citizen science apps like iNaturalist, eBird, Merlin, Seek and HerpMapper can turn our observations during nature walks into valuable opportunities for data gathering and documentation.



Glenda Denniston

As the Preserve continues to be a vibrant center of learning and exploration, we invite you to immerse yourself further – perhaps by joining the birders at Picnic Point to observe spring and fall migrations or documenting frog and toad calls as you walk trails near the marsh and lake. The Preserve is not merely a physical space; it is a living laboratory, a testament to the curiosity that defines our community.


*The author thanks Bryn Scriver, Laura Wyatt and Josh Sulman for their assistance with this article, especially in providing up-to-date information.*

Friends of Amphibians on a Larval Sampling field trip, Will Vuyk and Doris Dubielzig meticulously recording observations and data via smartphone through the Friends website.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

# Spring & Summer Field Trips

2024

Arlene Koziol 

## SCIENCE EXPEDITIONS

NOW RUN BY UW LAKESHORE  
NATURE PRESERVE

April 5-7, 2024

Please check the Preserve website, [www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu). The Friends sincerely thank Doris Dubielzig for her unswerving commitment to Science Expeditions. She will also be assisting the Preserve office with the Expeditions this spring.



## April 21

### Lichens of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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

We will stroll the paved road and the larger gravel 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 may download to your cell phone the guide "Lichens of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve" from <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/field-guides-and-species-checklists/>. The first couple of pages of this are valuable but NOT necessary! Be sure to dress warmly and wear waterproof boots if you have them, just in case. If you have a hand magnifier of any sort to bring, you will find it very helpful (none provided)! And 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)).

## April 28

### 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 find 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 Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance. NOTE: This trip is limited to 20 people. Registration is required at Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance website. Registration opens six weeks in advance. Meet at Picnic Point Entrance Kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Ashley Olah ([ahannah@wisc.edu](mailto:ahannah@wisc.edu) or 608-515-1304) and Jenn Schneiderman.

## April 28

### 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. Leaders: Glenda Denniston ([glendadenniston8@gmail.com](mailto:glendadenniston8@gmail.com), 608 231-1530) and Eve Emshwiller.

## April 30

### Spring Birding in the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Tuesday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Join us to look for spring migrants, including early warblers, vireos, thrushes and orioles as well as resident birds in this Important Bird Area. Learn how the Lakeshore Nature Preserve serves as a critical stopover habitat for migrating birds, and how, in bad weather, Picnic Point can produce spectacular collections of fallout migrants. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them; Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance will also have a few pairs of binoculars to loan. NOTE: This trip is limited to 25 participants and registration is

required at the Southern Wisconsin Birding Alliance website. Registration opens six weeks in advance. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Roma Lenehan ([rlenehan@charter.net](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net), 608-238-5406) and Becky Abel.

## May 15

### Warblers of Frautschi Point

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

We will focus on seeing warblers through leafy foliage and look for other spring migrants. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leaders: Roma Lenehan ([rlenehan@charter.net](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net), 608-238-5406) and Jill Feldkamp. This birding field trip has been described as "magical!"

## May 26

### Frog Walk (FUN)

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

We will discuss frog and toad calls and look for recently metamorphosed toads hopping around. Learn about the Preserve's amphibians and the importance of monitoring their populations. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Mary Campbell ([mcampbell32@wisc.edu](mailto:mcampbell32@wisc.edu)).

## June 23

### Bluebirds and Martins (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. We hope to get a peek at some baby birds, too. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Jeff Koziol ([jeffkoziol@gmail.com](mailto:jeffkoziol@gmail.com), 847-331-2430) and Richard Ness ([Richard.s.ness@wisc.edu](mailto:Richard.s.ness@wisc.edu)).



## July 28

**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 25

**Biking the Temin Lakeshore Path (FUN)**  
*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join Paul Noeldner and bike the Temin Lakeshore Path and adjacent streets that travel from one end of the UW Lakeshore Path to another. We will stop at safe

pull-off points at several places along the path and see the natural wonders in the middle of a busy university campus. Bring your own bike or rent one. Meet at the Memorial Union bike-parking area just west of the Union. NOTE: Bikes and bike parking are permitted along the Temin path and adjacent roads. They are NOT permitted on any Preserve path inside the gates or wooden fence entrance to Picnic Point and other Preserve areas. Free, welcoming, student and family friendly! Leader: Paul Noeldner (paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com).

**Check the Friends' website often for additional and pop up field trips!**

**PLEASE JOIN VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PRESERVE'S ANNUAL GARLIC MUSTARD PULL**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1:30-4:00 P.M.**  
Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot.



### BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

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

*The chair of the Friends nominating committee, Diana Tapia-Ramon, recommends the following candidates, endorsed by the board. Other candidates may be nominated at the annual meeting; all members present on April 3 are eligible to vote. Board members are elected for three-year terms; two student board members are elected for one-year terms. The board also supports the nomination of UW student Logan Dachel and the continuing board service of UW student Yara AL-Rayyan; Matt Chotlos and Anne Pearce will renew for second terms.*



### STEVE HOLTZMAN

Some of Steve's earliest memories flowed from walks, initially stroller rides, through what is now the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. When living in Colorado, he was a kayak instructor on the Roaring Fork, Arkansas and Colorado rivers, orienting people for playing and thriving in these magical landscapes. For the past eight years, he has provided tours of Madison lakes, through the Wisconsin Alumni Association and the Madison School and Community Recreation Pontoon Program. Steve has served in city government for a decade and as an election official for 22 years. He has a committed history of board positions in Madison and presently serves Gyro International and The Ice Boat Foundation. He also volunteers for RSVP, New Bridge and as a Wisconsin Master Naturalist.

and wildlife. With a BA in journalism from Georgia Southern University, he moved to Madison in 2021 with his wife to complete an MS in Life Sciences Communication from UW. Thomas explored how to effectively communicate thorny scientific topics, from climate change to COVID-19 and beyond. Currently, he serves as a marketing and communications specialist for the UW-Madison School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences. He deeply admires and appreciates Madison's natural spaces; he especially enjoys summer strolls to Picnic Point and crisscrossing campus on his bike through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



### JEFF KOZIOL

Jeff is retired from his career as an ophthalmologist. Born in Chicago, he spent the main part of his life in Arlington Heights. He graduated from UW Madison in 1970 and went on to medical school at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He remembers clearly his first semester in Madison, enjoying walking and biking

with friends along the lake shore and Picnic Point. Little did Jeff realize that one day, daily walks at the Preserve would again be part of his life. Jeff began being responsible for the Bluebird Trail four years ago. He and his wife Arene also enjoy the Biocore Prairie and the community garden. As a board member, Jeff would like to support the goals of the university at the Preserve and also have fun.

### *Farewell to Deserving Board Members*

Farewell and major thanks to retiring board president **Will Vuyk** for his exceptional service to the Friends, undertaken while he was yet a senior at UW! We also thank **Steve Sellwood** for his crucial six-year term as treasurer; **Signe Holtz** for her committed work as chair of the field trip committee; and UW student **Mason Polencheck** for his interest in amphibians of the Preserve, especially mud puppies.



### THOMAS JILK

Thomas was raised in Savannah, Georgia, where he fell in love with coastal marshes, waterways

# Friends Volunteers Continue to Make a Difference

We are happy to share that in 2023, 68 people volunteered their time and talents to the Friends, helping us work toward our mission: inspiring people to connect to and care for the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Organizational volunteers supported the Friends by planning or speaking at our annual meeting, contributing to the newsletter, managing memberships and serving on the board or committees.

Project and citizen science volunteers spent hours upon hours out in the Preserve caring for the land and contributing to citizen science monitoring projects. Some volunteers pulled garlic mustard and planted wildflowers at our annual spring events. Others monitored the Biocore Bluebird Trail, the purple martin house, lake water quality in University Bay and amphibians.

Our field trip volunteers spent their time planning, hosting and leading field trips throughout the year and throughout the Preserve. The expertise of our trip leaders helped the Friends introduce over 560 field trip attendees to all the things that make the Preserve so special.

In 2024, we will continue to have several volunteer opportunities:

- **Citizen Science:** Bluebird Trail, purple martin house, Lake Mendota water quality and more!
- **Friends committee work** in communication, membership or outreach
- Contributions to the **newsletter**
- **Field work**, such as removal of invasive plants 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 volunteer opportunities or to submit corrections to our list of volunteers.

## PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Laura Berger	Hans Luiken
Matt Chotlos	Jarek Luiken
Maggi Christianson	Reba Luiken
Glenda Denniston	Seth McGee
Doris Dubielzig	Genevieve Murtaugh
Dick Dubielzig	Richard Ness
Pam Fornell	Anne Pearce
Chuck Henrikson	Susan Slapnick
Kelly Kearns	Josh Sulman
Jeff Koziol	Diana Tapia Ramon
Roma Lenehan	Will Vuyk
David Liebl	

## FIELD TRIP VOLUNTEERS

Becky Abel	Roma Lenehan
Yara AL-Rayyan	John Magnuson
Laura Berger	Seth McGee
Matt Chotlos	Gigi Melone
Brandon Corder	Scot Moss
Glenda Denniston	Aaron Nolen
Doris Dubielzig	Paul Noeldner
Daniel Einstein	Ashley Olah
Eve Emshwiller	Rori Paloski
Nkosi Evans	Anne Pearce
Philip Fauble	Paul Quinlan
Jill Feldkamp	Marjorie Rhine
Dane Gallagher	Cole Roecker
Adam Gundlach	Amy Rosebrough
Chuck Henrikson	Bryn Scriver
Signe Holtz	Steve Sellwood
Paul Hunter	Josh Sulman
Ben Iuliano	Diana Tapia Ramon
Ingrid	Marie Trest
Jordan-Thaden	Will Vuyk
Kelly Kearns	Anna Walther
Chuck Keleny	Susan Will-Wolf
Ben Klementz	Tom Zinnen
Jeff Koziol	

## THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR MOMENTS!



Over the years, the Friends' newsletter has depended on the generous contribution of spectacular photographs by members. These volunteer artists include **Glenda Denniston, Chuck Henrikson, Kelly Kearns, Arlene Koziol, Gisela Kutzbach, Paul Noeldner** and **Susan Slapnick**. Thank you also to Preserve staff **Bryn Scriver** and **Adam Gundlach** for their photos. See Arlene Koziol's beautiful heron images in this issue!

## ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Yara AL-Rayyan	Tom Morgan
Nancy Breden	Missy Nergard
Matt Chotlos	Anne Pearce
Ava Cummins	Mason Polencheck
Glenda Denniston	Paul Quinlan
Doris Dubielzig	Cole Roecker
Signe Holtz	Steve Sellwood
Rhonda James	James Skibo
Ingrid	Josh Sulman
Jordan-Thaden	Diana Tapia Ramon
Kelly Kearns	Tamara Thomsen
Gisela Kutzbach	Katie Umhoefer
Roma Lenehan	Will Vuyk
Reba Luiken	Laura Wyatt
MJ Morgan	Tom Zinnen



Bryn Scriver



Paul Noeldner



Steve Sellwood

Volunteers at 2023 garlic mustard pull; Signe Holtz with field trip flag; Geology of the Preserve field trip in November, 2023



### WHERE ARE YOU FROM, GREAT BLUE HERON?

## Seasonal Heron Foraging in the Preserve

MJ Morgan

The poem “Some Herons” by Mary Oliver compares a great blue heron first to a blue preacher, flying in slow motion, and then to an old Chinese poet, “hunched in the white gown of his wings.” The setting is just after sunrise at a pond; soon two more herons join the preacher and the Chinese poet. Dawn is a preferred hunting time for great blue herons; but the solitary heron standing unmoving in shallow waters is a lone forager only at certain times. The group of four great blue herons observed by Mary Oliver probably came skimming in over the pond during nesting season when herons follow each other.

show that parental herons foraging for protein to regurgitate for their young fly an average of only 1.62 miles in search of food. This is why heron rookeries are usually in swamps, massive wetlands, or on islands. The closest known heron rookeries to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve are on forested islands in Horicon Marsh; at Devil’s Lake State Park; near Johnson Creek on I-94; on Highway 26 west of Fort Atchison; and near Pewaukee. Great blue herons are wholly carnivorous, so a steady, rich protein supply close by is critical for their nestlings.

Heron parents take cues from others in their rookery and follow them to good foraging sites; they then spread out along a shore or pond edge. Yet this intense hunting

these mini-flocks congregate in tall, forest-edge trees for night roosting, but individuals commonly roost alone, waiting for dawn foraging. In addition to the classic “stand-and-wait” posture, great blue herons use up to thirty stalking movements, including the customary dorsal fin strike on fish. Refracted sunlight on water is a problem for sighting fish, however, so they have evolved several strategies. These herons have dark patches around their eyes; they often stalk with wings outstretched and slightly bent, casting shadows onto water; and they also use a “peering over” search with their necks angled out and down. The Preserve, with its watery habitats and distinct shoreline niches, attracts great blue herons – but irregularly. Master of his own informed choices, a heron appears one day but not another. Old farmers with streams on their land called the great blue heron, “Johnny Flies up the Creek,” referring to herons



Arlene Koziol

A heron uses the “peering over” hunting technique.

Great blue herons, *Ardea herodias*, are listed as ‘common’ and ‘common/irregular’ for the months of May-October in the Preserve. ‘Irregular’ reflects unpredictable foraging and traveling patterns of these memorable birds. Although they are described as ‘rare’ in December, the 2023 Christmas Bird Count for Madison lists three great blue herons. Perhaps they were finally migrating south after an unusually warm and extended autumn. Stopping to forage in migration is one pattern. However, the great blue you spot at the edge of the marsh in summer is following another one.

In spring, when nesting occurs in colonies known as rookeries, a heron will likely not be searching for fish or amphibians in the Preserve. Studies

period lasts only two weeks. Soon after young herons begin standing on branches adjacent to the nest, the parents leave. They fly off in many directions, known for their early and wide dispersal. This may be connected to seasonal drying of wetlands in summer. Because their rookery likely functions as an information center about food sites, great blue herons use this directional knowledge in leaving.

The lone heron you see in the Preserve during summer may actually be part of a widely-dispersed flock. Sometimes



Arlene Koziol

A great blue heron stands and listens, perhaps aware of his photographer.

constantly searching for clearer water and better hunting. Although these stately, gray-blue birds are widely present in America, when a heron moves stealthily through the shore vegetation of Lake Mendota, there is still mystery. Where did you come from, great blue heron, and where are you flying next?

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

# Reflect. Envision. Realize.

*Will Vuyk, president*

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make. This past year, as inhumane as it sounds, I subjected your beloved board of directors to a months-long strategic planning exercise. Cruel and unusual, right? I hope you'll all forgive me.

During periods of transition, as we respond and adapt to changes in the urgency of the moment, taking time to step back and reflect is crucial. The past four years have been tough for many reasons. The year 2023, in one sense, provided a break from the turbulence; it gave us a moment to pause and catch our breath. In another sense, an awareness that significant changes are coming added in-the-moment urgency to the act of reflection.

Jokes about the pains of strategic planning aside, this process was simple – only three steps.\* I first asked each board member to identify three strengths and three weaknesses that stood out to them in our organization. Next, each board member was responsible for envisioning two futures in which we embrace one selected strength or address one selected weakness, respectively.

The board identified community connections, the enthusiasm, talents and diversity of our board and our collective love for the Preserve as our top strengths. We saw insufficient

outreach, limited board capacity and persistent difficulties in filling leadership positions as our top weaknesses. Future scenarios involved streamlining communications, leveraging our networks and better fostering love for the Preserve in our local community and beyond.

In a year filled with great successes – amazing field trips, the Friends of Amphibians citizen science program, the Preserve Poetry Audio Trail, the transfer of our entire membership management system from Excel to Little Green Light – I view the commencement of serious reflection about the state of our organization as the board's most important achievement. It is my sincere hope that the groundwork we've laid in 2023 will set this organization on a bright path into the future.

My true confession is that I will not be around to see this process through. Aiming to pursue a PhD out of state, I will be resigning from the board once my term as president ends at the annual meeting. In many ways, the push for reflection this year has been inspired by my imminent departure. I look back on our four years together with glowing fondness and pride. Even more inspiring, however, is the fact that the place we care for now exists at a moment of major change. The UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve is growing rapidly in prominence and potential with its new master plan, new situation

## 2023 Annual Financial Report

*Steve Sellwood, treasurer*

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$95,886</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$35,357</b>
Memberships & Donations	\$27,957
Donations (non-members)	\$5,100
Gifts in Honor or Memorial	\$180
Dividends and interest	\$2,120
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>-\$17,904</b>
Prairie Partners Summer Interns	-\$7,177
Gift to UW Preserve Stewardship Fund	-\$4,000
Special Projects and Citizen Science	-\$1,829
Newsletter and website	-\$1,787
Postage and PO Box	-\$1,292
Annual Meeting	-\$630
Insurance	-\$450
Membership Management Software	-\$386
Other Expenses	-\$353
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$113,339</b>

in the Office of Sustainability, and just-launched Outreach Center campaign. The Friends' number one priority in the coming years will be to figure out how to best coexist with and complement our burgeoning university partner.

The third step in our strategic planning process involves you (I assure you, this will be simple). Think about the first two steps described above. Let us know your thoughts. When the board reaches out to you, consider helping out. Of the many futures we can envision together for this organization, we will need your involvement to realize the one that fits best.

Gratefully yours,

**Will**

*\*The described strategic planning process has been modified from a form of vision to action planning employed by Dr. Nancy Franz, Iowa State University. Many thanks to Dr. Franz for providing her materials.*

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**WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

# Join the Friends!

**BECOME A MEMBER OR DONATE**

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visit [www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com](http://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com)  
and click "Join / Renew / Donate"  
to find our membership form

## 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

*Secretary:* Matt Chotlos

*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)

## Scout Rebuilds Picnic Point Firewood Racks

*Bryn Scriver*

Visiting around a fire, roasting s'mores or cooking a campfire meal on Picnic Point are beloved Badger traditions. Besides the fantastic views, part of the attraction is that the firewood is provided for free at three racks along the Point. However, time and weather had taken a toll on the racks—bottom boards were rotted and sides were missing. Thinking rebuilding the racks could be a good youth project, Preserve staff reached out to local scouts, and Landon Koch of Boy Scout Troop 628 stepped forward. Landon had spent time in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and was looking for an Eagle Scout project. He saw this as the perfect opportunity to give back to a place that was special to him and his family.

Landon worked closely with UW Landscape Architect Ronda James to research and develop a design, materials list and budget. With a starting gift of \$500 from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Landon

raised an additional \$1000 to purchase the necessary supplies.

Because Picnic Point contains sensitive archeological sites, it was necessary to avoid disturbing the soil. Preserve staff and interns prepped the three sites by removing the old racks and carefully cutting off any parts anchored in the ground. The new design features ground supports to stabilize the racks; this avoids digging new holes.

Landon recruited volunteers to help him build the racks offsite. Then, on December 3, 2023, Landon's dad drove the racks to the Preserve on a trailer, and Landon and his volunteers placed them one by one on the Point. It took lots of hands and strong

backs. The group took a break to celebrate their accomplishment with hot chocolate and a warming fire before Landon and his family made the last adjustments and reloaded the racks with firewood.

The new racks, featuring a roof to keep the wood drier, are built to last, and we couldn't be happier with the results!



*Landon is wearing the blue jacket and stands in front of a new rack.*