



PRESERVE!

Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Winter 2013-14

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Revitalizing Our Mission

Friends evolving role prompts discussion, change

By Will Waller

Our organization was chartered in 2001. Since then, the role of the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* has changed from leading the efforts in protecting, restoring, and raising funds for Preserve lands, to being part of a larger more formal University structure of Preserve governance and management. It is in this new context that the *Friends* Board has revisited its mission and goals. Last spring, past president John Magnuson invited Bill Cronon,

eminent professor of environmental history, to help us get started on this process. Bill offered a deceptively simple road map. Answer two questions: Why do we exist? And why do we do what we do?

Our approach was to analyze anew what our organization represents, how the *Friends* relate to the University's evolving interests, and how we relate to the Land itself.

The conversation to complete this important self-assessment took

seven months, guided by current president Gisela Kutzbach. Along the way we reaffirmed our individual connections to the Preserve and forged a consensus on how we, as an organization, relate to and contribute to the future of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as a nationally recognized urban natural area.

Continued, page 7

The mission of the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is to
Inspire people to connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Goals

The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* support this exemplary urban natural area to preserve it for the community and generations to come – through Land Stewardship, Advocacy, Financial Support, and Education and Outreach, and by collaborating with, supporting, and advising the University's Preserve Management Staff and Preserve Governance Committee.

1. Land Stewardship

- Protect the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve by participating in invasive species control, prescribed burning, increased water infiltration, flood reduction, and erosion control.
- Promote plant and animal diversity by preserving, restoring, or establishing appropriate biological communities.
- Encourage a sustainable balance between demands of human activity and natural resource protection.
- Monitor and document the Preserve's vegetation, animals, and human uses.

- Care for unique places and visual aesthetics.

2. Advocacy and Financial Support

- Protect the integrity of the Preserve through advocacy and building strong community support.
- Mobilize volunteers to lead or participate in field work, organizational tasks, project development, education, and promotional activities.
- Raise funds to support the Friends and Preserve activities.

3. Education and Outreach

- Plan and facilitate learning, teaching, and research activities and field trips, in partnership with university and community groups.
- Publish Preserve news and ecological information in print and online.
- Promote the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to the university community, the surrounding urban community, and to visitors from the state and the world.

Forgotten Fragments

A history of Willow Creek

By Olivia Sanderfoot

Willow Creek is an integral part of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve's landscape. The creek offers scenic views to those who walk, run, or bike the Lakeshore Path, as well as to anglers who frequent the Willow Creek Bridge. Despite the attractive scenery, the urban stream is but a fragment of the gorgeous creek it once was, and it has been largely forgotten by the UW community. Few students passing by know its name. Even fewer know its origin, or that the once winding brook was straightened and buried beneath concrete to accommodate the needs of a growing human populace. Publicizing its history and promoting its restoration are primary goals of the Willow Creek Community Project.

During the pre-glacier period, the University Bay area was characterized by well-developed drainage patterns. The network of waterways sketched an early blueprint that not even the glaciers could erase. By 10,000 B.C., the Bay area had been transformed into the topography we see today.

The earliest evidence of human life along Willow Creek dates back 4,000 years to the Archaic Indians, but it was the Woodland Indians who were responsible for the magnificent Willow Drive Group of effigy mounds built between 500 and 1100 A.D. They include a goose form, a water spirit, and an unnamed effigy. The collection was partially destroyed in the construction of the UW Lakeshore dorms but the remaining mounds are now protected and maintained by the Preserve. In the 19th century, the region was a popular settlement spot because of the abundant resources and fertile lands for farming. Rapid urbanization led to conflict with the nomadic Indian tribes, and after many decades of confrontation and treaties the Indians were forced to relocate to reservations.

When the UW was established in the mid-1850s, the Board of Regents recognized the Bay area as a place for recreation. The farm roads that connected campus to private lands along Lake Mendota and Willow Creek were used as pleasure drives for hiking, horseback riding, and carriage rides. The lakeshore drive ended abruptly at Stony Point (later known as Willow Beach) because there was no way to cross Willow Creek. The University agreed to construct a bridge in collaboration with the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association (MPPDA) in 1896 to allow greater access to the lakeshore. This was the first major project of the MPPDA, the historic organization responsible for the foundation of Madison's parks system. A Victorian-style wooden bridge was built over Willow Creek, and the scenic site soon became a spot that almost every UW student enjoyed.

In the 1940s, the University started to realize that increased human activity was taking its toll on this natural area, despite its status as a wildlife refuge. Aldo Leopold, a world-renowned environmentalist who taught at the UW,

advocated for the conservation of Willow Creek, and the University initiated efforts to reduce pollution to its waters. Despite the new green initiatives in the campus master plan, in 1955 the City of Madison channelized Willow Creek to increase drainage of the surrounding urban landscape. This transformed the creek from a natural stream to one fed by runoff from city streets and storm sewers. In the 1970s, the Class of 1922 funded the University Bay Project "to improve the ecology and restore the beauty" of the land along Lake Mendota. Key ecological improvements along Willow Creek that could enhance the land for the enjoyment of current and future generations were identified.

Today, the Willow Creek watershed covers 3.15 square miles. Storm sewer discharge and surface runoff from University Heights, Hilldale Shopping Center, and locations near Whitney Way enter Willow Creek via a culvert system, and as development of campus increases, more runoff from sidewalks, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces joins this urban stream. Any pollutants and organic material that wash into Willow Creek are carried into Lake Mendota, including an estimated 282 tons of sediment every year.

The Willow Creek Community Project is a community-wide program that engages students of all ages in caring for, monitoring, and protecting Willow Creek through outreach, research, and conservation. The long-term goal is to publicize its history and inspire students to take responsibility for the protection of this integral part of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the ecological dynamics of Lake Mendota. Students working on the project will become part of its history. They will see how the natural world is often amazingly resilient, and that it is possible to restore ecosystems through piecing together persisting fragments. Their experiences will create the next chapter in the story of Willow Creek.

For more information or to get involved with the Willow Creek Community Project, please contact Olivia Sanderfoot, Lead Coordinator, at osanderfoot@wisc.edu, and visit the project's website at <http://willowcreekproject.org/>.



Early photo of the original Victorian-style bridge that crossed Willow Creek. Photo courtesy of UW Archives.



The Preserve Breeding Bird Study, 2013-2015

Help us gather observations of breeding birds in the Preserve

By Roma Lenehan

Overview

The purpose of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Breeding Bird and Habitat Study is to identify the birds likely to breed and their habitat preferences in the Preserve from 2013 to 2015. The results will be compared with the baseline 2000 to 2002 results from the Breeding Bird and Habitat Study (Fall 2001 FCNA News, or friend-slakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com) to see if there have been shifts in breeding birds over the last decade due to habitat change or bird population changes. The project will try to determine the bird species in the various areas of the Preserve, their approximate numbers, and confirm the breeding of each species, using the methods of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Roma Lenehan and Glenda Denniston welcome volunteer participation.

Birds were surveyed throughout the Preserve in June. Breeding bird confirmation occurred throughout the Preserve.

Results in 2013

The 2013 survey detected 84 species in the Preserve. Of these, 42 species were confirmed (C), 26 were probable (Pr), 11 were possible (Po), and 5 were unlikely to be nesting.

The 2013 survey noted several species not found during the previous study: Turkey (C), Black-billed Cuckoo (Po), Cliff Swallow (C), Sedge Wren (Po), Nashville Warbler (Pr), Orchard Oriole (Pr), and Eastern Towhee (Po).

The following species that were either *confirmed* or *probable* previously were not observed during the 2013 breeding season: Pied-billed Grebe, Mute Swan, Ruddy Duck, Coot, Least Flycatcher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Yellow-throated Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

How You Can Help

We need your observations. Our goal is to confirm or make probable as many species as possible. So we need your observations between May 20 and August 1 (please

record dates of occurrence, location, and if possible, breeding activity such as presence of pair, gathering nest material, or carrying food) of some rarer birds, including those not detected (listed above) and Green Heron, Virginia Rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, and Wood Thrush.

It is also very important to receive information on breeding activity for all birds, including the following birds that we failed to confirm this year, especially the new species noted as above, plus: Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Rough-winged and Bank Swallow, Blue Jay, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Ovenbird, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and Swamp Sparrow.

Please help us gather observations of all breeding birds during 2014 and 2015. We want to confirm all species each year.

Send all your observations to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net or 238-5406).

Volunteer in the Preserve:

Join other *Friends* and volunteers at drop-in volunteer workparties. Tools, training and refreshments provided! Dress to work outdoors, and prepare to meet new people and have fun. Youth and groups are welcome with advance notice. For more information please contact: Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist, bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu, 220-5560.

December

Sat. Dec. 7, 1-3pm, Meet at Picnic Point lot 129

Sat. Dec. 14, 1-3pm, Meet at *Frautschi Point lot

January

No scheduled volunteer dates. Enjoy the Preserve.

February

Sat. Feb 8, 1-3pm, Meet at *Frautschi Point lot

Sun. Feb. 16, 1-3pm, Meet at Picnic Point lot 129

March

Sat. March 1, 9am-Noon, Meet at *Frautschi Point lot

Sun. March 9, **9am-Noon, Meet at Picnic Point lot 129

**Daylight Savings Time begins on Sun. March 9. Spring forward!

*Frautschi Point lot is off of Lake Mendota Drive

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



Olivia Sanderfoot, John Magnuson, Bryn Sriver and Galen Hasler celebrate on the Lakeshore Path. Photo by John Magnuson.

Party on the Path

Spurring undergrad involvement in the Preserve

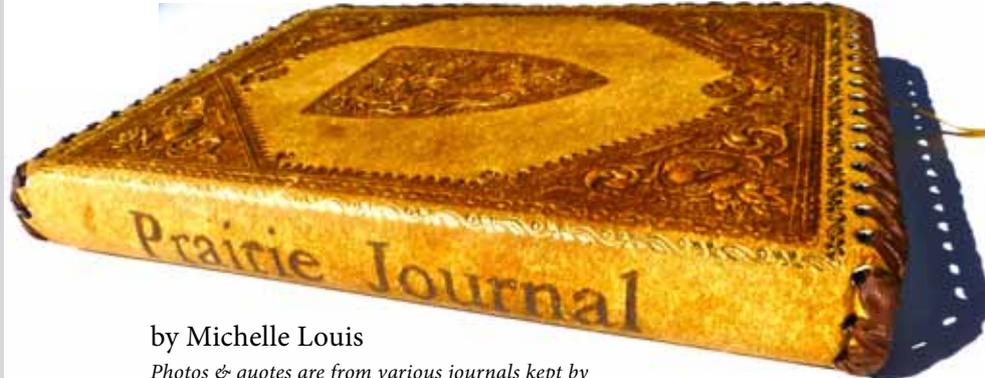
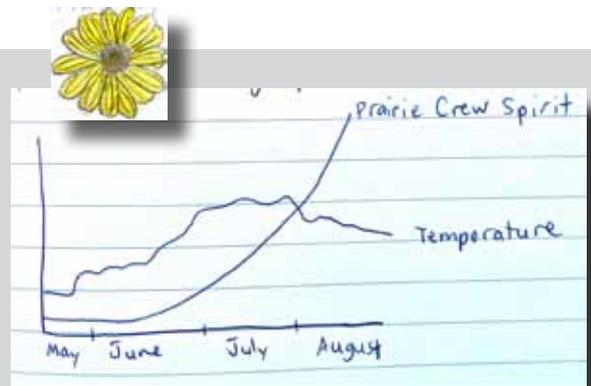
By Sue Denholm and
Olivia Sanderfoot

What would you think if you were an incoming UW student invited to *Badger Green Scene: Party on the Path*? Good question! This September, the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* teamed up with the Nelson Institute and others to launch this new Wisconsin Welcome event for UW freshmen, introducing them to the many green initiatives, organizations, and resources on and around the UW Madison campus.

Our *Friends* group was on hand to welcome students on that steamy September evening, alongside many campus organizations. *Friends* members welcomed students by handing out Badger-Red bandanas sporting a map of the Preserve and offering guided tours highlighting the Native American Mounds and the Willow Creek bridge. At one station along the path, Fast Plant necklace favors were created by the Office of Sustainability Bottle Biology team. At another, Madison B-Cycle representatives offered bike tune-ups.

Students were thrilled to be part of this collaborative, community experience in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. "I would never have thought of this," one student said. "It's awesome. Thank you so much for setting this up." Stay tuned for plans for Party on the Path 2014! It's already on the Wisconsin Welcome calendar.

"I saw today that July 2012 was the hottest summer ever recorded for the lower 48 states. I always wanted to spend a summer out in the heat to toughen myself, but I don't know if I was expecting this. However, the sweat on our brows does not put out the fire in our hearts as evidenced by this highly scientific graph:"



by Michelle Louis

Photos & quotes are from various journals kept by Seth McGee and the Biocore Prairie Crew, 2009-2013.

A sturdy notebook has long been the stalwart companion of field biologists and nature enthusiasts. Technology is changing that. Smartphones, laptops, and GPS-enabled cameras are replacing the trusty field notebook. But not entirely if Seth McGee has his way. McGee instructs and supervises the Biocore Prairie Crew, a group of Biocore students who work in the Preserve each summer. Together, for the past 8 years, they've kept a lively and engaging, handwritten journal of their summer - a lasting record of their enthusiasm for the Preserve.

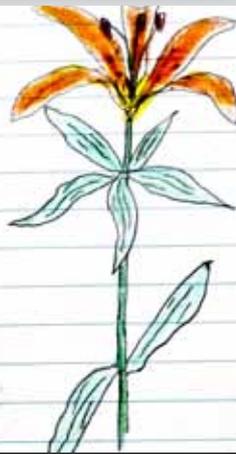
"Our students do a great job of collecting data and documenting natural phenomena, but capturing the essence of the prairie requires more than that. That's what the Prairie Journal is for. Students begin each spring seeing the prairie as a place that they show up to work," says McGee. "By mid summer, though, you can see a sense of ownership in their step. By early fall, we usually find them spending their free time out there...collecting seeds, chasing migrating butterflies, or leading volunteer activities," he continues, "Throughout the process, the Prairie Journal is there to record any musings they have: what they see...poems, inspirations, songs, drawings, jokes, or whatever is on their mind."

The group's communications have taken on various electronic forms, but a good old fashioned field notebook works best, according to McGee. He appreciates the tangibility of a bound journal "because it's likely that students reading the information decades from now will find it a unique experience to be reading a handwritten passage from a former student... a treasure chest of information for any future student who wonders what past students were doing and thinking at various points throughout the project's history." McGee envisions the journal as a window into the Biocore project, as well as "a voice that helps future students connect with students from the past."

"Today we made a beach ball out of burdock seeds. We also pulled a bunch of garlic mustard. It was excellent."

Today was also the first day that the mosquitoes were biting.

Monday June 22
 Today was a momentous day at the Bicete Prairie. A wood lily in the nursery bloomed, marking the first wood lily flower ever (or at least for a hundred or so years) at our site. The lily was grown in the lab for 2 years, undergoing 2 growing seasons and 2 faux winters each year. Then it was planted in the nursery 2 years ago. Another one looks like it will bloom soon. Exciting day!



From the Director

By Gary Brown, Director,
 Lakeshore Nature Preserve

With all the wonderful activities happening in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, I want to thank the many volunteers that devote their generous time to this amazing place. Together, we have done incredible things and I look forward to our future endeavors.

We recently completed two beautiful projects. Fire Circle #2 was renovated with funding from the Class of 1959. Wood and stone benches surround a new fire circle with an accessible grill grate. The circle has been located so that a separate spot for the Susan Solie Boyd bench can overlook University Bay. Grass provides a transition from the surrounding woods while assisting in minimizing compaction and erosion. Native grasses have also been seeded under the large shoreline oak.

A gift from the Class of 1946 provided entry improvements at Frautschi Point. A graceful arc of native grasses and forbs surround a new information kiosk that serves as a welcome for visitors. Note that the planting border is a piece of Madison history – granite trolley line pavers found stockpiled in the Preserve. Two white oaks are on their way for spring planting.

We hope you find time to enjoy these two new projects and continue your support for the Preserve.



Fire circle #2 (top), Frautschi Point entry

Photos by Rhonda James



"An Ode to a Thistle:

How does one describe a plant so vile?
 At the sight of such a foe, tender words go awry,
 And only return to praise a heaping pile,
 Of these spiny enemies, cut, dead, and dry."

"Did some mowing today. It's amazing how much wildlife you see when creating such a disturbance...It's a treat to watch the swallows swooping over the mass of insects rising from the grass. Our resident cowbird, Cecelia, was, of course, there as well... Seeing the smooth, shorn paths, I couldn't help but think that this must have been what the early settlers felt like after plowing through the prairie. Silphiums and grasses were as much a nuisance to them as ragweed and thistle are to us today, in all likelihood. I wonder what destruction people will be gloating over 100 years from now."

"The last months have been truly life changing. Not only can I name prairie plants wherever I go (a great conversation-starter!), but I feel a much deeper connection to the land on a functional level and to nature herself on a spiritual level. There is no better feeling than to stand at the highest point of the prairie and look around at the vast expanse of surrounding flora- from the small and gentle nodding onion to the tall and proud compass plant... to know that each has its rightful place and purpose in the prairie and that you - a member of this restoration effort - have a purpose as well..."



News Briefs & Notes

Winter is a great time to visit the *Dodson Audio Trail in the Class of 1918 Marsh*. Included in the topics is a section entitled, "Winter and Ice." Stop by to listen (bring your cell phone) next time you're in the area or call 608-327-5715 from any location to listen to the 17 audio messages on the marsh's ecology. For more information or to download a pocket guide, please visit our website at:

www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.uwalumni.com

Would you like to lend your expertise to the Friends? The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is looking for members with experience in marketing, social networking, and fundraising to help us move forward. Please contact us at preserveFriends@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering your expertise or to find out more.

A perfect end to the season...



Geologist Bill Barker explains the geology of the Preserve to about 35 *Friends* field trip attendees. *Photo by Glenda Denniston.*

Friends Geologic Trip to Picnic Point by John Kutzbach

On a beautiful fall Sunday afternoon (October 28), Bill Barker (UW-Madison) led a group of about 35 on a fascinating journey back through time. He 'read' for us the landscape's memories of past events that can be seen along Picnic Point Trail: erosion/deposition features related to European settlement and the building of Madison; mounds built by Native Americans; a boulder-marked shoreline of once-huge Glacial Lake Yahara; remnant signs of past glacials, including a strikingly beautiful reddish rhyolitic boulder transported from the Lake Superior region to the Point by glacial ice, and the sturdy sandstone bedrock laid down long ago when this region was a shallow tropical sea. It was an inspired walk through Time and Fall Colors and the Sounds of wind and wave.

Thank you to the 2013 summer interns



Friends-sponsored summer interns-Ashley Vande Voort, Jacob Zeldin, Tony Abate, Adam Trotz, Sarah Gleason. *Photo by Galen Hasler.*

An Intern's Perspective by Sarah Gleason

One of the first tasks the interns were given was to remove garlic mustard in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. This was a laborious job that took several weeks. At the outset it was difficult for me to connect invasive species removal to the larger picture of biodiversity. However, the more time I spent in the Preserve, the more I began to understand the relationship between our patch of land and biodiversity. I truly connected with the Preserve when we began collecting seeds and I noticed how many plant species I could recognize in such a small area. I can now identify many of the species that fill each niche, and understand the threat that invasive species present. I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to experience and connect with the Lakeshore Nature Preserve through the generous support of the *Friends*.



One kind word
can warm
three winter months.

-Japanese Proverb

Have you recently spotted a noteworthy species in or near the Preserve? We'd love to hear about it.

If you or a student you know has a research project *in the Preserve* that you think ought to be highlighted in a future issue of *PRESERVE!*, please let us know.

You are our most important Friend. If you haven't renewed your annual membership, now is a great time to do so. If you've already renewed, thank you.



Contact Us

Please consider a gift to the *Friends* this holiday season.

Through the generous and concerted efforts of hundreds of volunteers and donors just like you, we've made tremendous progress in the Preserve. Your additional financial support of our 100% volunteer-driven organization continues vital restoration efforts and outreach. Please consider the *Friends* in your end-of-year giving. The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. See form below.

Save the Date, April 8, 2014,

7 pm, at the Arboretum Visitor Center, for the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* Annual Meeting.

Mission, continued from front page-

In November, the Board approved a revised mission and goals statement to fit today's context. (See bottom of front page.)

Our challenge now is to find new ways to fulfill our mission and goals, to retain the enthusiasm that allowed the *Friends* to grow over the past decade, and to strengthen our common commitment to the Preserve.

We welcome your ideas. Please send your suggestions and offers to help. Spend time in the Preserve. Come to one of our many organized field trips, volunteer days, or outreach events. And lastly, please plan on attending our annual meeting on April 8th, at 7 pm in the Arboretum Visitor Center.

You may contact us by mail:
Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI. 53705

Or by email:
preserveFriends@gmail.com

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Please visit the *Friends* website:
www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.
uwalumni.com

Email: preserveFriends@gmail.com

Executive Committee

President: Gisela Kutzbach 608-238-0420

Vice President: Will Waller

Secretary: David Mickelson

Treasurer: Marcia Schmidt

Volunteer Coordinator

Galen Hasler 608-206-5218

galenhasler@gmail.com

Newsletter

Patricia Becker and Michelle Louis

We Appreciate Your Input

Ideas and announcements for our newsletter and website are welcome.

To request space in the newsletter, please tell us about your material before Jan. 22. Final submission deadline is Feb 10.

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

I want to make a difference by joining *or making an additional gift* to the
Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I'm interested in volunteering. Please send me information by email.

I'd like to go paperless & receive my newsletter by email.

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

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

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Student _____ \$10

Individual _____ \$20

Household _____ \$35

Steward _____ \$50

Patron _____ \$100

Other \$ _____

ADDITIONAL GIFT

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

Woodland _____ \$500

Savannah _____ \$250

Wetland _____ \$100

Prairie _____ \$50

Other \$ _____



Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

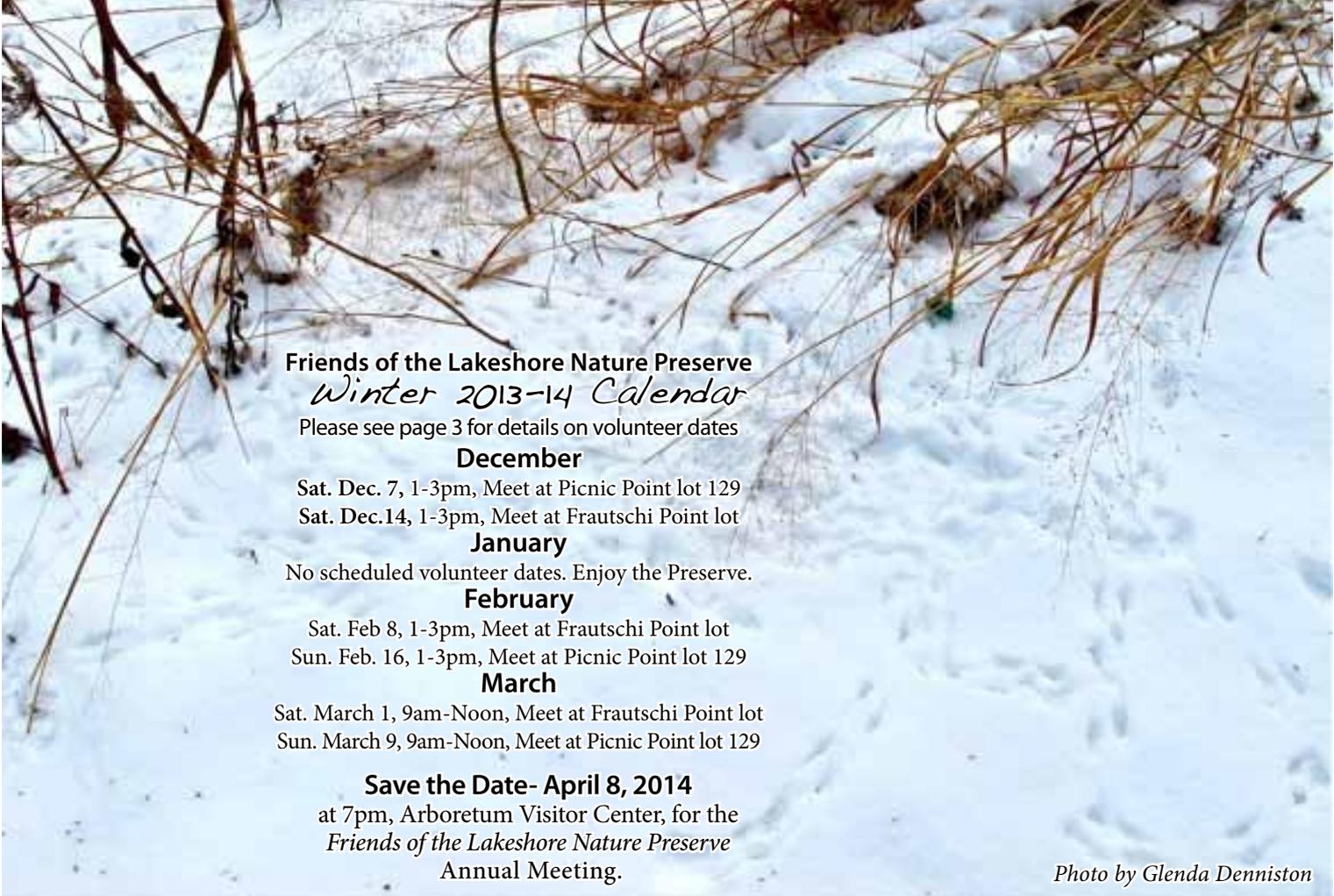
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Madison, WI 53705

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paperless & receive
your Preserve!
newsletter by email,
please contact us at:*

preserveFriends
@gmail.com

www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.uwalumni.com



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Winter 2013-14 Calendar

Please see page 3 for details on volunteer dates

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Photo by Glenda Denniston