

**Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve**

P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI 53705

email: rlenehan@charter.net

waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve

Officers

President

Richard McCoy 608-233-5706
rmccoy@wisc.edu

Treasurer

Ann Burgess 608-271-9335
aburgess@wisc.edu

Committee Contacts

Newsletter

Roma Lenehan 608-238-5406
rlenehan@charter.net

Volunteer

Glenda Denniston 608-231-1530
denniston@wisc.edu

Friends of the Preserve

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

**We Welcome Submissions
to the Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Newsletter and Web Site**

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Lakeshore Nature Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Web Site. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenehan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to rlenehan@charter.net. To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by January 23, 2007. The submission deadline is February 14.

Kennedy Gilchrist – Buckthorn Warrior

Since his retirement after 30 years at the UW Medical School, Kennedy Gilchrist has spent much time volunteering at the Preserve. Kennedy is a founding member of the Board of the Friends of Muraviovka Park, which is affiliated with the International Crane Foundation. Muraviovka Park, located in the Russian Far East, is an international model for sustainable land use, rare species conservation, and environmental education.

Kennedy joined the Friends of the Preserve Board in 2005. He attends almost every field trip, bringing his binoculars and his telescope to see birds and other animals. He is always ready to lend a hand in planting or weeding.

This summer Kennedy devoted 129 hours to removing buckthorn and jewelweed from Bill's Woods. He notes that parts of the planting area had a "regrowth of numerous buckthorn...plants amidst a sea of jewelweed plants.... Pulling up the jewelweed, growing usually as dense stands at heights of three to six feet, revealed a forest of buckthorn plants." He hand pulled and dug out all the buckthorn plants, both new



Kennedy in Tuxedo Shirt and Helmet Removing Buckthorn to Uncover Native Plants in Bill's Woods (GD)

seedlings and head high resprouts, opening the area to allow our plantings to survive and thrive.

In the future, Kennedy hopes to promote multiple-user activities in the Preserve, including taking advantage of its proximity to the UW Health Sciences Center complex for potential benefit of patients and their families. Vegetation improvements at the Class of 1918 Marsh will make strolls more interesting for these families.

Buckthorn in the Preserve

Common Buckthorn, a non-native shrub or small tree from Eurasia, grows in dense thorny thickets shading the forest floor and decreasing forest understory diversity. Buckthorn also does not hold the soil well, increasing erosion. Buckthorn gets leaves early in the spring and retains them until late in the fall. Spring wildflowers, native shrubs, and tree regeneration are all decreased in areas of abundant buckthorn.

Buckthorn has male and female plants. Female plants produce numerous berries. These berries are eaten and spread by animals. Unfortunately, buckthorn berries are low in protein and cathartic, passing rapidly through the digestive system, and thus not as nutritious as most native berries.

In Bill's Woods volunteers removed the female, or berry producing, buckthorns early in the project to increase sunlight and stop seed production. Some of the buckthorns were treated with herbicide to prevent resprouting with mixed success. Other buckthorns have been repeatedly recut to kill them. Several years of repeatedly cutting resprouts kills the buckthorns. After native shrubs were established, male buckthorns were removed. In the meantime, hundreds of buckthorn seedlings sprouted when the area was opened up. These need to be hand pulled when they are still fairly small.

Volunteers like Kennedy Gilchrist prevent our restoration from returning to an impenetrable buckthorn thicket which would kill our plantings. Unfortunately, removing these seedlings is very time consuming and we need many volunteers to keep even a relatively small area free from buckthorn.

Won't you join our ongoing invasive species battle? Only with continual maintenance will we be able to restore native habitats in the Preserve. To volunteer, contact Glenda Denniston (denniston@wisc.edu or 231-1530).