



PRESERVE!

Volume 8, Number 3, Fall 2009

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation and Stewardship of our Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies and Shorelines

Planning Continues for Work on Picnic Point

by Richard McCoy

Picnic Point, centerpiece of the Preserve, needs our support and care. But what should that care be? What outcomes should be sought? These questions are upon us just now. Briefly, here is the background:

The past fifty years have taken their toll on Picnic Point. Changes came almost imperceptively for those who visited often, but provide an unpleasant shock to any who knew the Point in earlier times. Trees and shrubs, generally invasive and non-native, slowly grew to block the views of the campus, the capitol and the lake. Trees grown too tall blocked even the iconic view of Picnic Point from Observatory Hill.

Increasing use as the campus grew also had a major impact. In places, the shore became seriously eroded; bare earth was exposed where soil was compacted and vegetation worn away; familiar features were closed or removed and picnic sites and fire circles fell into disrepair. For many recent years, Picnic Point had received only minimal care.

Happily, this neglect has been reversed. In the context of support for the Preserve, great things are happening on Picnic Point! And there is more to come.

Areas of agreement: There is wide agreement about much of what needs now to be done on Picnic Point. The list includes protecting Indian mounds, re-opening lost views, restoring native vegetation, addressing erosion problems, providing safe lake access, and improving facilities for visitors.

Where agreement is still needed: Just what should be done on the tip of Picnic Point has not been resolved. One interpretation of the Preserve Master Plan called for concentric stone council rings able to seat seventy or eighty people at the tip of Picnic Point. One of the several concepts meeting this requirement featured an outer ring with tall stone seatbacks.

This would have greatly altered the tip of Picnic Point. Approaching visitors would have been greeted by seatback-height stone walls. For small groups and individual visitors, Picnic Point's most frequent users, the change might well have seemed inexplicable.

Public Input: Several concepts were presented at a public meeting in June. Included was a quite modest plan that featured limited stone work, that set into the earth to be generally unseen by approaching visitors. An additional option with no stone construction was recommended in the course of the meeting. Discussion and a straw vote showed strong, essentially unanimous, preference for these two options

Planning continues, along with negotiations with potential donors who, if they provide a substantial gift, want a major voice in plans for Picnic Point.

Support Asked: An editorial in the Wisconsin State Journal called for citizen support of a "smart" plan for Picnic Point. That would seem a very good thing.

But those who know and care about Picnic Point need to help to identify what "smart" will mean.

It might be *smart*, for example, to restore Picnic Point to look much as it did in the best of times past, while providing sufficient capacity and robustness in use areas to support today's needs and traffic.

A University statement adopted in 1944 said this:

"That the Board of Regents designate this area as the Picnic Point – University Bay Preserve, to be kept in its natural state for recreational use, and for use as an outdoor laboratory for teaching and research. Roads, buildings, and other artificial developments should be excluded...

Its value for these purposes would suffer by an artificialization of the bay, the point, or the adjoining hinterland."

Sixty-five years later, that still seems quite smart.

Participate in the Planning Process

Work on design concepts will continue and future public meetings are to be scheduled. Check the Preserve website (www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu) or listserv (to participate, see directions in page 7 box).

Your comments and advice would be appreciated by the planners and can be directed to Gary Brown, UW Director of Planning, gbrown@fpm.wisc.edu.

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Lakeshore Nature Preserve**
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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 Website

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Website. 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 Sept. 1, 2009. The submission deadline is Sept. 24, 2009.

Fall Field Trips

Additional Field Trips may be posted on the
Friends of the Preserve Website: waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve

Class of 1918 Marsh: Wetland Restoration Lessons Learned in Vietnam

August 22 (Saturday) 1:00-3:00 PM

Discuss ecological management of the Class of 1918 Marsh with leader Dr. Triet Tran of Ho Chi Minh City University in Vietnam. Dr. Tran will apply his experiences with marshland preservation and restoration in Southeast Asia to this Marsh. Meet at the Class of 1918 Parking Lot.

Contact: Kennedy Gilchrist (233-8717)

Early Fall Birding at Picnic Point

August 30 (Sunday) 8:00-10:00 AM

Come search for fall migrants, including confusing fall warblers and sparrows. (Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society). Meet at the Class of 1918 Marsh Parking Lot. Leaders: Eric Wood and Marty Evanson (271-6846)

Fall Hike at Frautschi Point Restorations

September 5 (Saturday) 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Explore parts of Frautschi Point and learn about ongoing restoration efforts in the area and how these reflect goals of the Preserve Master Plan. We will enjoy birds, butterflies, wildflowers and more as we hike.

Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot. Leader: Glenda Denniston (231-1530)

Lakeshore Preserve Night Insect Hike for Families

September 11 (Friday) 7:15 PM-8:45 PM

Join Naturalist Diane Dempsey for a night hike for children and families. We will listen and look for nocturnal insects, mammals, and birds while hiking through the Preserve. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Diane Dempsey (238-4342)

Fall Bird Banding at Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

September 12 (Saturday) 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Learn about bird banding (possibly with a bird in hand) and appreciate the importance of bird banding to conservation. Children are welcome! Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Park at the Frautschi Point or Picnic Point Parking Lots and walk to the Biocore Prairie.

Leader: Mara McDonald (274-2534).

Fungus and Mushrooms of the Picnic Point Area

October 4 (Sunday) 12:00 Noon-1:30 PM

Learn about fungi in the Preserve. **No Live Specimens Will Be Collected.** We will learn basics about fungi, characteristics used in identification and how they function in ecosystems. Meet at the Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Hal Burdsall (608-767-3930)

Lake Mendota and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

October 7 (Wednesday) 1:00-3:00 PM (Weather date Wednesday, October 21)

Come learn about the ecotone (transition) and the interactions between the lake and the Preserve. Find out about the changes in Lake Mendota over the years. The boat we will use is the LIMNOS, operated by the Center for Limnology for teaching and research. Group size will be limited to 12 participants. Please reserve your place by email to the trip leader. Meet at the Limnology Parking Lot 8 (no parking available) at the eastern end of the Lakeshore Path.

Leader: John Magnuson (jjmagnus@wisc.edu)

(continued on page 6)

Implementing the Master Plan at Frautschi Point

by Glenda Denniston

Master Plan Catalyzes Progress

Big changes have occurred at Frautschi Point, guided by the 2006 Preserve Master Plan. Invasive shrubs have been removed and replaced by native plants in large areas. Savanna vegetation is being restored around the big open-grown oaks and at the edge of the former agricultural field. Woodlands are gaining diversity. The lake can again be seen from many spots along the Lakeshore Path.

The creation of the 2006 Preserve Master Plan provided goals and guidance, enabling restoration to proceed. As early as 2005, after the Biological Subcommittee completed its sections of the plan, major restoration projects, including work at Frautschi Point, began.

The 30-year Vision for Frautschi Point

The Master Plan specified long-term goals for Preserve areas, including Frautschi Point.

1) Most of Frautschi Point will be “Dry Mesic Woods.” This reflects the decision to keep wooded areas wooded and open areas open, partly to avoid controversies such as the one created in 1998 when many large trees were cut at Frautschi Point. “Dry Mesic Woods” as defined by Curtis implies an open woodland with canopy trees like oaks and hickories (1959, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin*). This community has more shrubs and forbs than Mesic Woods, since more light reaches the ground through the open canopy.

2) Invasive shrubs will be removed and replaced.

3) Views of the lake will be created by removing obscuring vegetation.

4) An irregular “savanna transition zone” will be developed between the woodland and the prairie restoration in the former agricultural field. This will include both extension of prairie into the woodland and some trees added to the prairie. A small savanna patch is to be opened around the big open-grown White Oaks.

The Biological Subcommittee that drew up the plan stipulated that all four goals should be well underway within the first five years. This is the fourth year of the Master Plan. Is the Master Plan implementation on schedule in Frautschi Point?

Diverse Dry Mesic Woodland (Goal 1)

Most of the existing woodland is of poor quality. There are few large oaks or hickories. Instead, its canopy consists largely of “pioneer” trees (for example, Green Ash, Box Elder and Large-toothed Aspen in addition to the many non-native Buckthorn). These trees invaded a repeatedly disturbed area.

Restoration will not be done using a “clearcut method” (removal and replacement of all “undesirable” large trees). Instead, desirable trees will be added as old trees die and invasives are removed. Progress will be seen in increased openness of the woods as well as in increased species diversity. Transformation will be gradual, but the end result will be a woods with a structure and composition close to Curtis’s description.

Already volunteers and staff have planted over 200 small trees and shrubs to replace invasive trees and shrubs that they removed. These include future canopy trees, including oaks and hickories, as well as appropriate understory species.

Invasive Shrubs and Lake Views (Goals 2 & 3)

Restoration of Frautschi Point is being done by a hard-working team of community volunteers, Preserve personnel, Audubon Interns and other students, and hired contractors. The team is supervised and coordinated by Field Manager Cathie Bruner.

Much effort has gone into controlling invasive shrubs. As these are removed, they are replaced with native plants. Removal of invasive shrubs along parts of the Lakeshore Path already has accomplished the goal of opening selected views of the lake.



Savanna Plants near Open-Grown Oak (G Denniston)

Savanna Edges (Goal 4)

A “savanna transition zone” at the field edge has been created. In 2005, volunteer ROTC cadets removed invasive shrubs, and volunteers and the work team have continued to clear and maintain the area. Thousands of native plants and seeds have been planted. Diverse savanna vegetation already is well established in the area surrounding the big open-grown White Oak nearest the field edge. Thank you to the Frautschi family, the Friends of the Preserve, and Tom and Kathie Brock.

In conclusion, implementation of the Master Plan is well on its way around Frautschi Point.

Thank You

The Friends of the Preserve want to thank all the donors and volunteers who help make our work a success.

Major Donors

Major donors donated more than \$100 since July 2008. See also starred listings.

Peter and Eleanor Blitzer
Elsa and Andrew Crummy
Herman Felstehausen
Margaret Van Alstyne
Diana Webb
Pat Powers and Tom Wolfe

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In memory of Erv Bruner

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Around the Preserve

Sightings in the Preserve

Successful Coyote – A Village of Shorewood Hills resident walking early in the morning on the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path saw a coyote crossing University Bay Drive toward Picnic Point carrying a goose.

Nesting Turkeys – Two Turkey nests were found, one in Big Woods with 11 eggs, the other in the old field near Frautschi Point.

Chat Found – In early June a rare Yellow-Breasted Chat was found briefly at Biocore Prairie.

Report your own sightings to rlenehan@charter.net so that they can be printed in *PRESERVE!*



Sandhill Cranes Nest Successfully in the Preserve

According to the International Crane Foundation, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the only college in the United States with nesting Cranes on Campus (Sandhill



Cranes have nested for more than a decade in the Arboretum). Last year, the Sandhill Crane pair in the 1918 Marsh produced two colts (young Cranes), but lost one of the two. This year the Cranes

probably nested in the Bay Marsh and again produced two colts. Despite the many urban dangers, like vehicles and dogs, so far the colts have been well protected by their parents. They are now able to fly. The left photo shows all four family members in the old field on June 11, shortly after the youngsters had left the nest. The right photo shows one adult and two colts in the College of Agriculture Garden (adjacent to the Eagle Heights Community Garden) on July 15. The other adult was present but does not appear in the photograph. (Photos by Glenda Denniston)

Fall Field Trips *(continued from page 2)*

An Historical Journey through Frautschi Point and the Tent Colony

October 18 (Sunday) 1:00-3:00 PM

Long-time residents of Madison may recall the days when Frautschi Point (then Second or Jackson Point) had several spacious “cottages” and hundreds of people lived under the trees at the Tent Colony. Join Daniel Einstein (deinstein@fpm.wisc.edu, 265-3417), Preserve Program Manager, to search the landscape for evidence of these lost settlements.

Meet at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot.

Enjoying Fall in Picnic Point Woods

October 24 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30 PM

Fall is the season for winterizing. We'll enjoy what leaf color is left and look for seeds, insect signs, bird flocks, etc. We will “read” the ecological history of this special area by interpreting distinctive characteristics of trees and other vegetation. (Cancel only for solid, continuous rain). Meet at Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (262-2754, weekdays)

Announcements

Construction Behind the Class of 1918 Marsh

Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture Notices:

The snow pile storage area improvement project north of the Goodman Diamond complex will begin construction on July 27 and will be completed by November 2009. The work consists of reconstruction of 1.9 acres of the UW's snow storage/management areas including: grading, earth berms with stone weepers and level spreaders to manage melt water runoff, installation of clear stone over geotextile fabric, installation of a new crushed stone base course and asphalt paving at the existing access drive, a new chain link fence near the baseball diamond, and wetland vegetation restoration.

In addition, the hammer throw area improvements to the area west of the Goodman Diamond complex will begin construction on July 20 and will be completed by October 2009. A concrete pad will be constructed for the throwing sports (hammer, discus, shot and javelin). A new hammer throw cage will be installed and stone chip landing area will be added to the throwing area. The landing field area will be raised up and re-seeded. This will improve drainage in the field area. A native wet-tolerant seed mix will be planted as a buffer to the Class of 1918 Marsh. The Class of 1918 Marsh is a mapped wetland and all construction for this work will be outside of the wetland boundary. The wetland will be protected with erosion control measures throughout construction and until the turf is established.

Announcements *(continued)*

New Friends Officers

In May Friends of the Preserve officers were elected for the 2009-2010 year: President – Kennedy Gilchrist; Vice-President – John Magnuson; Treasurer – Marcia Schmidt; and Secretary – Roma Lenehan.

Preserve Stewards Receive Award

Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan were awarded the 2009 Volunteer Invader Crusader Award by the Wisconsin Council of Invasive Species. They were recognized for their invasive species control efforts in the Preserve and their educational efforts with the Friends of the Preserve. They were nominated by Tom and Kathie Brock, longtime Preserve supporters who began the Preserve Garlic Mustard control efforts.

Cronon Fellowship

The Kelly Family Foundation has generously established the E. David Cronon Stewardship Fellows of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to support an undergraduate half time during the summer. Colleen Anderson, this year's competitively selected recipient, will gain experience and skills in land conservation and stewardship while providing enthusiastic labor to address the needs of the Preserve. Fellowship tasks will vary annually to meet the needs of Preserve managers.

Leopold Archive

The Aldo Leopold Foundation has made many of Aldo Leopold's papers available through the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections, including photos, correspondence, diaries, and unfinished manuscripts (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/AldoLeopold/>). There is a finding aid that is useful if you know what you want. The database is also searchable. Most of the documents can be read and printed legibly (better copies are available from the UW Digital Collections Center) and the “page text” gives a fair transcription and highlights the search word. My search found 83 University Bay matches, including some notes on research projects (pheasant, bobwhite, red-winged blackbird, muskrat), Arboretum Committee material (the governing committee), and some letters discussing protection. For instance, in 1947 the Arboretum Committee recommended against grazing cows on Picnic Point because it was “incompatible” with plans for developing the “area as an outdoor classroom and laboratory” (Gallistel Letter, Jan. 8, 1947. Aldo Leopold: Research Areas and Projects: UW Arboeretum: Administration and personnel. p. 23). In addition to providing information on the Preserve, the archive provides an opportunity to see what Leopold was doing and thinking before he wrote *A Sand County Almanac*.

Essential Partnership: Generous Donors and University Resources

by Daniel Einstein, Preserve Program Manager

At 300-acres, the Lakeshore Preserve covers nearly one-third of the main University of Wisconsin-Madison Campus. Every day thousands of people (whether they realize it or not) traverse Preserve paths, enjoy a scenic lakeview from an overlook, launch a boat or enjoy a picnic within the Preserve. Maintaining the infrastructure to support these activities requires significant resources.

Many members of the Friends, having participated as volunteers or trip leaders, are familiar with ecological restoration activities or field trips that are important to the Preserve. But they may be less familiar with the other activities that occur in the Preserve that are critical to keeping the place safe and accessible to the public.

In addition to the generous and essential gifts provided by the Friends and other donors, the University provides valuable direct and indirect support for the operation of the Preserve. The primary responsibility for operating the Preserve rests with the many departments of the Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) divisions, including Physical Plant, Grounds, and Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture.

The Physical Plant department provides the salaries for Preserve managers Cathie Bruner and Daniel Einstein. In addition, it provides an annual budget of \$13,000 for vehicles, supplies and office support. The Grounds shop provides critical maintenance support including tree removal, turf care, and path and road maintenance. Personnel also install signs, fences and benches. Every year, Grounds contributes between \$35,000 and \$60,000 worth of staff and supplies directly to the Preserve. Other Physical Plant shops provide services such as graffiti removal, bench repair, and vehicle maintenance.

The Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture department assists with tasks like designing Preserve signs or planning the Muir Knoll gathering circle. Landscape architect Rhonda James spends at least half of her time on Preserve projects and has the assistance of two student interns.

Several other departments at FPM provide broad support. Safety, Transportation Services, Waste and Recycling, and Business Services all contribute to Preserve operation.

Finally, faculty, academic staff, and administrative staff contribute time and expertise as members of the Preserve Committee and various management teams.

In total, the University of Wisconsin's direct and indirect support can easily exceed \$200,000 each year. This University commitment, together with generous gifts and countless volunteer contributions, enhances the value of the Preserve to the community.

Join the Conversation at the Preserve Listserve

Something new is always happening in the Preserve. To stay on top of field projects, or engage in a dialogue with others interested in the Preserve, sign up for the Preserve listserv today.

The listserv is essentially a group email discussion where you can post questions, respond to management issues or be the first to learn about a new project.

To join the listserv simply send a "Sign me up" message to deinstein@fpm.wisc.edu

For a detailed explanation of the listserv go to the Preserve website: <http://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/involved/documents/FAQdisclistv6.pdf>

Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name _____	Student	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____	Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
City, State _____ Zip Code _____	Household	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____	Steward	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information about how to volunteer	Patron	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Include your email address and telephone number if you would like to volunteer)	Other	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mail your check payable to Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with this form to:

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

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Garlic Mustard Control: A Community Effort

The combined efforts of volunteers and staff led to the removal of most of the Garlic Mustard in the Preserve. The Pull-A-Thon collected 63 bags of Garlic Mustard and raised \$3213 for Preserve invasive species control. Work parties, other volunteers, and staff pulled the remainder of the Preserve Garlic Mustard.

A Successful Pull-A-Thon

During the May 16 two hour Pull-A-Thon, 24 energetic volunteers and staff pulled 63 bags of Garlic Mustard. This Garlic Mustard will not crowd native plants or release thousands of persistent seeds in the Preserve. Due to the generosity of 59 donors, the Pull-A-Thon raised \$3213, \$1000 more than previously, for invasive species management in the Preserve.

This year in most areas there was significantly more Garlic Mustard than last year because of the alternating annual abundance of Garlic Mustard. Even so, this year's volunteers noted that the Garlic Mustard was less abundant than the previous high, 2007, so hopefully the Garlic Mustard population is declining! In "better" areas the Garlic Mustard is clearly decreasing, and in some areas native plants have reappeared.

Volunteer and Staff Garlic Mustard Efforts

An additional 754 hours of volunteer and staff time were spent removing 296 bags of Garlic Mustard. (In 2007 volunteers spent 837 hours pulling 576 bags which did not include the Picnic Point and staff Garlic Mustard totals). Six Friends work parties spent 80 hours pulling 20 bags of mostly small Garlic Mustard. Members of the Friends volunteered another 394 hours, pulling 146 bags in the western half of the Preserve, mostly in Frautschi Point, Big Woods, and Eagle Heights Woods. The Preserve staff led nine work parties which spent 100 hours pulling 30 bags of Garlic Mustard in the Picnic Point area. The staff worked 180 additional hours, pulling 100 bags. Some of the money supporting this staff work was donated by the Friends.

The Future

As a result of the progress in Garlic Mustard control and the alternating nature of Garlic Mustard, there will probably not be a Pull-A-Thon in 2010 and with continued diligence may not be one again, since there may not be enough dense Garlic Mustard in one place! Thanks to everyone's help the amount of Garlic Mustard has decreased in the Preserve.

Thank you all for your support and persistence.

Friends of the Preserve
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