



# PRESERVE!

Volume 11, Number 1, Winter 2011

## Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

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

### Friends of the Preserve Makes a Difference

For ten years the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (incorporated under another name) has been dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the Preserve woodlands, wetlands, prairies and shorelines. (For the early Friends history, see pages 4-6 of the Winter 2008 *PRESERVE!*). The Friends has advocated for, raised money for, educated people about, and provided volunteer labor to care for the Preserve.

#### Advocating for the Preserve

The Friends works to protect the Preserve by engaging in University political processes including

- Participating in the 2006 Preserve Master Planning process, serving on planning sub-committees;
- The President serving ex-officio on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee, enabling Friends opinions to be heard by this policy making body;
- Members serving on the Preserve sub-committees.



Practicing with Spear Thrower at Archaeology Trip (M English)

#### Fund Raising

The Friends has supported the Preserve by raising money several ways. The Friends has given \$71,341 directly to the Preserve (table). The Friends initial \$10,000 gift of matching funds enabled the UW to obtain a grant to restore the eroding blacktop parking lot at Raymer's Cove to a prairie opening and to replace eroding paths with a beautiful wooden stairway. For five years the Friends has also paid for Prairie Partner Interns' summer work. These

enthusiastic students did invasive species and erosion control and planting during their almost 2500 hours. The Friends spent \$25,664 purchasing thousands of plants, shrubs and trees which they planted in Bill's Woods and other Preserve areas. Generous members also donated plants and seeds.

#### Friends Support of the Lakeshore Preserve

2001-September 1, 2011

Friends Projects	\$24,580
Plants for Preserve	\$25,664
Direct Gifts to Preserve Stewardship Fund	\$71,341*
Prairie Partners Interns	\$23,616
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$145,201</b>

\*Includes \$8,388 in GM Pull-A-Thon money

The Friends also raised money for the Preserve. Dick McCoy and Blair Mathews presented Preserve projects to class gift committees. Several classes, including the Classes of 1946 (Frautschi Point Entrance), 1953 (Lakeshore Path), 1955 (Tent Colony Woods), 1959 (Picnic Point Fire Circle 2), and 1963 (Lakeshore Path), chose to support the Preserve with their class gift, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts to the Preserve. Dick and Blair's fund drive in honor of Bill Cronon raised over \$100,000 for the Preserve Stewardship Fund. Other Friends members also made gifts directly to the Stewardship Fund to support Preserve restoration. Some of these projects have not yet begun, while others are underway restoring these areas, like the Lakeshore Path projects which enhanced views while reducing erosion and increasing native plant diversity.

#### Education

The Friends has raised awareness of the Preserve through its newsletter, website, annual meetings and field trips, serving our 330 members. *(continued on page 10)*

#### Friends of the Preserve Tenth Anniversary

This newsletter celebrates our anniversary, focusing on our history and accomplishments.

## Volunteer Profile: Harriet Riley

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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](mailto:rlenehan@charter.net). To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by January 20, 2012. The submission deadline is February 10, 2012.

Harriet Riley so often works behind the scenes that her many talents and accomplishments are not always known and appreciated. This is certainly true of her volunteer work with the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

In a “previous life” she was an extremely successful teacher of English as a Second Language in the Madison School System and is still in contact with many of her students. Since her retirement, she has done extensive volunteer work—mostly with environmental organizations. In addition to being a long time member of the International Crane Foundation, she was an early member of and volunteer for Gathering Waters Conservancy. For almost seven years, she served on the Board of the Natural Heritage Land Trust as well as managing its membership.

Her activities with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve also go back many years, starting with the fledgling Friends of the Campus Natural Areas more than ten years ago. When it comes to volunteering for this organization, Harriet has done it all. In the early years, she attended most work parties. She has worked on planting parties, helped with trail building, and spent many hours pulling Garlic Mustard and other invasives throughout the Preserve.



Harriet with Shovel and Friends (G Denniston)

Her activities are not limited to field work, however. As a member of the organization’s Board, she helped organize the original Membership Drive. Today she still serves on the Communications Committee and as Membership Chair. All of our members have contact with Harriet. She writes renewal reminders and thank you notes to members. Harriet sends “A special thank you to all of the people who have sent in their membership renewals after the FIRST reminder card was mailed out.” She also mails the *PRESERVE!*

In addition to being an enthusiastic field trip supporter, she has organized and led field trips. Together with the Natural Heritage Land Trust, she led a walk in the Wally Baumann Woods to acquaint people with the area and help raise money to replace the badly damaged memorial marker. Another of her Preserve trips, held in conjunction with Gathering Waters Conservancy and the Land Trust Alliance, began in Upper Eagle Heights Woods and ended at the Memorial

Union. The participants, who came from all over the country, walked the entire length of the Preserve and can testify that there are at least four miles of Preserve path along Lake Mendota.

Harriet is frequently seen walking the Preserve trails, especially when the weather is cold – she likes winter better than allergy season.

Harriet has spent hundreds of hours volunteering for the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. It is time for her to come out from behind the scenes to center stage front and take a well-deserved bow.

*Each season in the Preserve is special, but winter brings silence and solitude that are unique. I treasure the memory of the day I saw a red fox running along the eastern edge of Wally Bauman Woods, onto the lake ice, and into the rays of the setting sun. Its beautiful coat shimmered with unforgettable color and texture. --Harriet Riley*

Thank you, Harriet, for all you have done.

# 2006 Preserve Master Plan Status Report

by Gary Brown, director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve

It's hard to believe it has been over five years since we approved the master plan for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, managing this precious place, protecting its distinctive natural resources and increasing the enjoyment and understanding of the Preserve for decades to come. The Preserve continues to be a national model for protecting and sustaining urban open spaces and natural areas in a university setting.

The goals of the master plan are to help address issues of shoreline erosion, runoff, development pressures, invasive species, disappearing views, decaying infrastructure, and poor land management. The plan defines ways to address these problems and provides a vision for restoration management, protection of cultural resources, and helps define human use throughout the Preserve. Simply put, the master plan was developed to help protect the resources; provide access for education, research, outreach and recreation; and promote the Preserve as an essential part of the university contributing to its sense of place and fostering an ethic of on-going land stewardship.

Since 2006, much has been done to address the recommendations in the master plan. From aggressive invasive species removal to the opening of views along the Temin Lakeshore Path and along Picnic Point; from native plant restoration to renovations to the eastern tip of Picnic Point, many initiatives have been completed or initiated all under the guidance of the master plan. An interactive website was developed to share information and promote the Preserve. This website was made possible by a gift from Peter and Eleanor Blitzer. A quarterly electronic newsletter highlighting accomplishments was launched. New trail directional signage has been manufactured and installed. New trail head and informational kiosks have been designed and will be installed in 2012. Interpretative signage is also being planned. Administratively, a Preserve director has been named and full time staff has been increased from one to three. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee has become fully engaged in setting policy and directing broad management goals within the Preserve. Most recently, a bicycle ban was implemented on Picnic Point to increase user safety and promote the natural setting of the Preserve.

University planning staff continues to work on best management practices to minimize erosion and mitigate stormwater flows in and around the Preserve. A major project is currently underway to design new stormwater facilities on the north end of Lot 60 and in the Triangle Marsh. Additional bio-swailes and infiltration beds are planned in Eagle Heights to reduce runoff into Tent

Colony Woods, Raymer's Cove and Eagle Heights Woods. Discussions are also underway in how to approach renovations to the Class of 1918 Marsh and manage stormwater flows around it on the west campus.

A generous donation was provided by the Ebling family to restore the gathering area at the end of Picnic Point, reducing compaction and creating an access way down to the water's edge where once large tree roots provided "stairs" and furthered the erosion around them. The project to renovate this area will be largely done this fall with final plantings to occur next spring. With the removal of invasive species, the views of downtown Madison and back to campus have been restored for all to enjoy. Work was also done to restore the overlook at Muir Knoll and we now have the Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle as a new small gathering area and outdoor classroom. Restoration work was also done at Willow Creek Woods to remove invasives and create a more open woodland, savanna-like community. Shoreline restoration was also completed along Frautschi point.

Through the generous donations of several class gifts we have been able to provide many improvements and supplement our restoration efforts. At Frautschi Point, the Class of 1946 provided funding to install new native landscaping at the entry in and around the parking lot. That work will be done in 2012. The Class of 1953 provided funding to increase plant diversity along the shoreline from Willow Creek to Picnic Point which is complete. Funding from the Class of 1955 continues to allow invasive plant control and restoration of a native understory of woodland plantings in Tent Colony Woods. The Class of 1959 generously provided funding for improvements to picnic site #2, where in 2012, the site will be improved to protect the large oaks and correct soil erosion. The Class of 1963 helped provide funding for restoration work in Muir Woods and along the east end of the Temin Lakeshore Path.

One would be remiss in not mentioning the efforts from our Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve who have put in countless hours of volunteer labor and materials to restore and manage many areas within the Preserve. Many hours have been put in around Bill's Woods to remove invasives and replant with a wonderful array of native species. Their current work around the Heritage Oak, just north of Bill's Woods, is a testament to their incredible dedication and support for the preservation of these amazing resources.

Find out more about what is going on in the Preserve at [www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu](http://www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu).

# Early Days of the Lakeshore Preserve: Garlic Mustard

by Tom and Kathie Brock

Before the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, this area was called the Campus Natural Areas (CNA), administered by the Arboretum. We started the volunteer work – Garlic Mustard (GM) was the motivating force.

We first discovered this small, white-flowered plant in the CNA in 1995. Not knowing what it was, we brought a plant home and put it in a vase. Fortunately, plant ecologist Brian Pruksa, who was helping us start restoration work at Pleasant Valley Conservancy, visited that day. “Where did you get that plant?” he asked. “Not at your place, I hope.” He told us what it was, and explained its dangers, and soon thereafter we were seeing it everywhere in the CNA. Kathie did her first pulling of Garlic Mustard in Eagle Heights Natural Area and North Shore Woods (now called Tent Colony Woods) in 1996. She also informed the Arboretum restoration people of Garlic Mustard in the CNA and sent them a check to help get control work started. However, they also had Garlic Mustard problems at the Arboretum and were not able to help significantly.

Perhaps motivated by our financial contribution, on October 3, 1996, the Director of the Arboretum came to our house and asked us to begin to organize volunteer activities at the CNA. In November, a public meeting was held at the Memorial Union and the Director, the Arboretum Ecologist, and Tom gave talks. About 60 people showed up, providing the basis for our first mailing list. (These mailing lists were used for the initial 2001 Friends membership mailing). The first work party was scheduled for early April 1997. Unfortunately, that day it snowed a lot, too much to work on Garlic Mustard. Some people showed up anyway, giving us encouragement to continue.

To help get a grip on the problem, we mapped the locations of Garlic Mustard on CNA land. Major infestations were found in Bill’s Woods, the UW Grounds storage area, the base of and other parts of Picnic Point, along trails in Second Point Woods, and scattered areas in Eagle Heights, but the greatest infestations were at Frautschi Point.

With our encouragement, in 1997 the University hired its first contractor, Clark Forestry, to spray Garlic Mustard. However, spraying was only done for about ten feet on either side of the roads and trails. We hoped that the contractor could do a much more extensive spraying in 1998, but for some reason the contractor was not permitted to begin spraying until the week of May 18, by which time all of the second year plants had set seed. Because of this, only the first year plants were sprayed, which meant that all second year

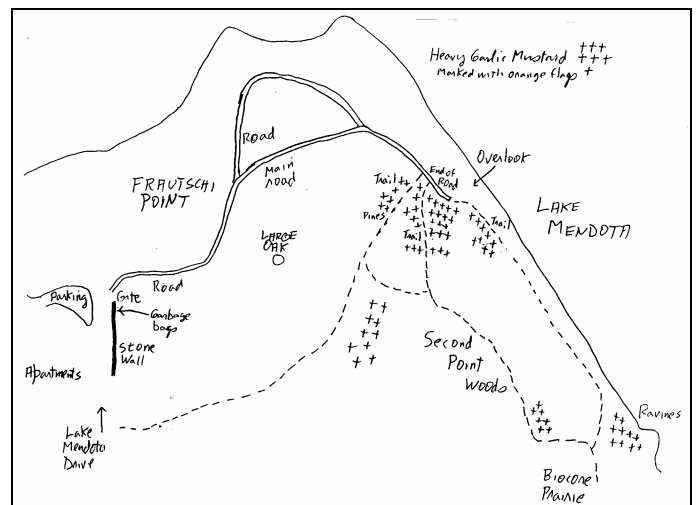
plants had to be hand pulled, a major undertaking for our volunteers.

We began regular monthly work parties, usually working one weekend on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, in the spring of 1998. On our first GM work party, May 2-3, the volunteers managed to remove all the GM plants that were in flower on Picnic Point. Unfortunately, Frautschi Point was another matter.

The first major Frautschi Point work party was Memorial Day (1998) weekend, when the following intrepid volunteers turned up: Anne Altshuler, Anne Woodson, David Sulman, Elizabeth McCoy, Gary Rubin, Glenda Denniston, Hannah Pinkerton, Henry Hart, Jack Mitchell, Jonathan Sulman, Kathie Brock, Neil Krebsbach, Paul Michler, Sally Rowe, Tad Pinkerton, Tom Brock, Tom Helgeson, and Tom Wise. Some people worked all day, and to keep people fueled up, Kathie bought a large bag of hamburgers from McDonalds. Over 50 large garbage bags were filled that day. There was still a lot of GM remaining, so two further weekends were scheduled (May 30-31 and June 6-7). In addition, we organized what we called self-guided work parties. A detailed hand-drawn map (see below) was provided showing locations of GM. A supply of garbage bags was put behind the stone wall at the entrance. Here were the instructions: “Areas of heavy garlic mustard are marked with orange flags. You can recognize the plant by the long seed stalks. You can fill a bag in about 30-45 minutes. Put filled bags at the edge of the road.” After the work parties and the extra volunteer days, about 180 garbage bags were filled!

This was just the start of serious GM control on the CNA, and activity continues to this day. Progress is slow but steady.

In addition to GM control, we also did major brush control work in the CNA, but that is another story.



Garlic Mustard Map June 1998 for Volunteers (T Brock)

# Ten Years of Bill's Woods Restoration

Today, under the mature oak canopy, the native shrub and understory species of the Friends of the Preserve's 6.5 acre East Bill's Woods restoration provide food and shelter for animals and beauty throughout the year. The Friends has spent thousands of dollars removing large non-native brush and purchasing thousands of native plants. Hundreds of Friends volunteer hours have been spent controlling invasive species, planting, weeding, and caring for the area. Now we are beginning the restoration of the adjoining Heritage Oak Area.

## Bill's Woods in the Year 2000

It is hard to remember the condition of Bill's Woods just before the formation of the Friends in 2001. Even though the canopy was made up largely of mature oaks and hickories, the lower level was a tangle of Buckthorn, shrub honeysuckle, and native weedy trees. Beneath the shrub layer, the few native plants often did not flower due to the dense shade.



Bill's Woods Before Brush Removal (G Denniston)

## 2001: The Beginning

Initially the Friends obtained a permit to work in the southeastern corner of Bill's Woods by writing a detailed plan. The first job was to control the thousands of invasive shrubs, mostly Buckthorn. In the winter of 2001-02 Mary Trewartha and Glenda Denniston marked the trees and shrubs to be removed. Grounds personnel cut and chipped them. Rather than eliminating all the non-native woody plants, initially the female Buckthorns that bore berries were removed. Care was taken to maintain the structure of the woods, working gradually to minimize adverse affects to wildlife.

## 2002

During the winter, Mary, Glenda and Jane Camerini ordered over 1000 native plants and understory trees and shrubs. In the spring many volunteers helped to plant the wildflowers, ferns, young trees and shrubs the Friends had purchased. Some of these plants bloomed the first year. Surprisingly, some resident formerly non-blooming Troutlilies, Mayapples, Wild Geraniums, Jack-in-the-Pulpits flowered due to the additional ground layer sunlight from the removal of invasive shrubs.

A prolonged drought made plant care laborious, but volunteer efforts enabled many of the plants to survive.

## Project Expansion

Upper Bill's Woods began as a rescue operation to repair an open area which had been used as a dump for gravel, mulch, rocks and other materials. When materials were removed and the land regraded, the ground was hardpan and topsoil was missing. Stormwater runoff formed a deep gully. Beginning in 2000, woodland plants were planted along the edges. In 2001 Friends and other volunteers sowed native prairie and savanna seeds donated by Tom and Kathie Brock. This area was added to the Friends Bill's Woods project in 2003.

## Protocol for the Bill's Woods Project

The Friends received additional permits, gradually expanding the area to include 6.5 acres. In each section of woodland restoration the same basic protocol has been followed. Changes have been gradual (there is no "clearcut approach" - everything undesirable is not initially killed before replanting). Selected invasives are removed and at the same time replaced with native plants. Once the native plants are established, the rest of the invasive brush is removed.

The goal has been to increase plant and animal diversity. Usually hand labor, rather than chemical treatment, has been used for invasive control, except for large Buckthorn trees, whose cut stumps were treated.

Written and photographic monitoring is done regularly and annual reports submitted to Preserve staff.

## 2011: Bill's Woods Today

New plants and seeds have been added at least yearly. Many native plants have spread impressively, allowing us to divide these plants and plant them elsewhere. We also collect our own seed, reducing the number of plants we need to purchase.

We are still battling invasive plants, but they are far less prevalent than when we started the project.

In short, Bill's Woods has come a long way. Dappled shade has replaced heavy shade, wildflowers of many different types bloom prolifically in the spring, savanna plants thrive in the summer, and a diverse set of insects, birds, and other animals visit the area.



Organizing the Plants for Bill's Woods (G Denniston)

# Garlic Mustard Control Efforts in the Preserve

Garlic Mustard (GM) has a central role in the history of the Friends. As the Brocks note on page 4, GM control was the first volunteer activity. Much of the early Preserve management efforts, led by the new Field Manager, Cathie Bruner, focused on Garlic Mustard.

GM, a non-native invasive biennial, invades woodlands, kills native plants and inhibits tree regeneration. Once present, GM can persist in small numbers for long periods or can increase rapidly. A single GM produces hundreds of seeds that continue to germinate up to seven years. Disturbance causes existing GM populations to increase, shading out and inhibiting other plants and preventing the establishment of desired native plants in restorations.

## Early Years: Garlic Mustard Herbicide Treatment

From 1997 through 2006, much of the Preserve was treated with Roundup to control GM. Treated areas were visited once by the contractors. Sometimes a proportion of the treated GM produced seeds. Often a few smaller and isolated GM survived to seed and form new circles. In 2006 much of the treated GM in Big Woods survived. Despite the money spent on herbicide treatment, the GM in the Preserve continued to spread.

Volunteers tried to recheck areas and pull the GM missed by the contractors, but the herbicide took time to kill the plants. Most May work parties were completed before it was known whether the herbicide application succeeded. By that time, the surviving GM was in bloom and herbicide application would be relatively ineffective. In addition, volunteers did not like to work in treated areas. Volunteers also removed GM in sensitive areas like the Picnic Point Marsh (where in May 2004 seven people pulled 36 bags in 20 hours).

According to the regular volunteers, despite herbicide treatment and volunteer control, GM was not rapidly declining. At best in areas of high infestation it was remaining stable and in areas of lower infestation the GM was continuing to spread downhill. Both the GM and the herbicide treatment (which could kill other plants) posed threats to the native plant community.

The amount of Preserve area treated with herbicide was gradually reduced. The management decided not to use herbicide to control to GM in the Preserve in 2007. The volunteers were going to pull all the GM, testing the hypothesis that hand pulling is more effective than herbicide treatment in complex, wooded areas.

## Friends Volunteer Garlic Mustard Hours and Bags 2004-2011

Hours	2004	2005	2006	2007 <sup>+</sup> *	2008 <sup>+</sup>	2009 <sup>+</sup>	2010 <sup>+</sup>	2011 <sup>+</sup>	Total Hours
Work Party	0	31.5	15	40	67.3	76.3	94.08	84	408.18
Pull-A-Thon	0	31.5	0	72	52	48	0	0	203.5
Volunteers	170	116.00	273.77	755.35	253.10	457.30	252.70	328.80	2607.0
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>288.77</b>	<b>867.35</b>	<b>372.4</b>	<b>581.60</b>	<b>346.78</b>	<b>412.8</b>	<b>3218.7</b>

Bags	2004	2005	2006	2007 <sup>+</sup> *	2008 <sup>+</sup>	2009 <sup>+</sup>	2010 <sup>+</sup>	2011 <sup>+</sup>	Total Bags
Work Party	0.0	6.5	8	16	21.75	18.7	24.67	27.17	122.79
Pull-A-Thon	0.0	50.0	0	103.0	40	63.0	0	0.0	256.0
Volunteers	53.7	35.58	78.97	449.28	43.32	151.12	51.46	105.42	968.85
<b>Total Bags</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>92.08</b>	<b>86.97</b>	<b>568.28</b>	<b>105.07</b>	<b>232.82</b>	<b>76.13</b>	<b>132.59</b>	<b>1347.6</b>

## Friends Garlic Mustard Effort by Area 2007, 2011, and Total 2004-2011

Areas	Acres	2007*Hr <sup>+</sup>	2011 Hr <sup>+</sup>	2004-11 Tot <sup>+</sup>	Hours	2007*bags <sup>+</sup>	2011 bags <sup>+</sup>	2004-11 Tot <sup>+</sup>	Bags
Eagle Hts Woods	30.7	139.2	123.3	<b>693.1</b>	22%	20.4	18.1	<b>118.7</b>	9%
Tent Col & WB	19.0	12.1	10.7	<b>138.6</b>	4%	1.0	0.7	<b>16.3</b>	1%
Frautschi Point <sup>#</sup>	28.8	411.6	112.4	<b>1191.9</b>	37%	287.7	35.5	<b>556.9</b>	41%
Big Woods <sup>#</sup>	30.0	183.7	144.3	<b>767.9</b>	24%	202.0	72.4	<b>477.0</b>	35%
Other areas <sup>#</sup>		120.8	22.1	<b>427.1</b>	13%	57.2	5.9	<b>178.8</b>	13%
	<b>108.5</b>	<b>867.4</b>	<b>412.8</b>	<b>3218.6</b>		<b>568.3</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>1347.6</b>	

\* 2007 includes 256.6 hours and 215 bags by Glenda Denniston.

# Garlic Mustard responsibilities in Frautschi Pt, Big W, Bill's W, and other were shared, so not all hours and bags are recorded.

+ 2007-2011 spring hours includes up to 79 hours and 11 bags removed the previous fall.

In the spring of 2007, the first year without treatment, GM was abundant. More than 867 hours were spent collecting 568 bags of GM. One disturbed area of Frautschi Point produced over 197 bags. Years of herbicide treatments had not eliminated the GM.

### **Volunteer Efforts to Control Garlic Mustard**

During 2000 to 2004 workers like Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan regularly pulled GM throughout the Preserve on work parties and independently. Glenda marked GM circles with orange tape for contractors and pullers. In 2003 a student spent the summer marking GM throughout the Preserve with flags labeled “2003.” Harriet Riley and Roma marked circles in Eagle Heights and Tent Colony Woods. In 2011 most GM circles still have a 2003 flag (often hidden on the ground) or a long Glenda tape. This suggests that the movement of GM has been limited and that, despite management, GM still persists in the same locations.



Harriet Riley, GM Warrior, at Snowy Work Party (G Denniston)

Beginning in 2004, a group of the Friends decided to improve GM control. They began to systematically record the amount of time spent and the amount of GM removed from each area. In addition, they took notes on the GM condition. They began to focus on the western portions of the Preserve, especially Eagle Heights and Tent Colony Woods and portions of Frautschi Point. The creation of the Big Oak Trail in 2004 enabled volunteers to access most of Frautschi Point, greatly improving workers' efficiency. Gradually volunteers took over other GM work, relieving staff some of the GM removal. They added Big Woods, which was designated part of the Preserve in 2005. They began control on edges, including along roads, which serve as a source of GM that can be carried on feet or by water into the Preserve. They also began controlling other invasive undesirable weeds like Burdock and Motherwort which often hide GM.

In an attempt to bring in additional volunteers, the Friends organized GM work parties and four two hour Pull-A-Thons (2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009) which removed 256 bags of Garlic Mustard in 203.5 hours and

raised \$8,388 for invasive species control. (Donors pledged money per GM bag pulled by the group during the Pull-A-Thon). The volunteers began to extend the season, disrupting first year cotyledons in the early spring, removing first year plants during second year rechecks, and removing remaining first year plants in the fall. (They do not have time to do fall management in all areas). Volunteers began removing second year plants as soon as the ground thawed. In fact, Glenda has removed GM every month of the year. Most work parties are now in April, when more volunteers are available, the plants are smaller, and plants do not have to be bagged, but can be composted (until they bolt (get tall) in May). Pullers try to check each area (or even each circle) three times throughout the year.

### **Partial Success**

Gradually, after years of systematic hand pulling, both the amount of GM volunteer time and the total amount of GM collected has decreased. GM bag totals decreased more than GM pulling time since checking complex areas takes time whether or not GM is found. After a few years of careful management, GM levels usually fall, then stabilize at a lower level. Distorting the long-term trend is the alternating high (odd years) and low annual GM population. This fluctuation is common in areas with high GM levels (large second year plants can inhibit the small first year plants).

In some areas, GM has gone from solid circles to scattered smaller plants, often under downed trees (active management selects for smaller, hidden, and later blooming plants, which are missed by the pullers). In many areas the native plants have recovered. In some areas the few remaining GM are missed and go to seed. As a result, the Preserve has “new” dense circles on the site of the previous circles. GM seems to be especially hard to control in areas of high disturbance and in dense Buckthorn or Honeysuckle thickets that can hide smaller plants. Native plants usually do not return to these areas either. After 15 years, Frautschi Point GM populations remain high, making up 37% of volunteer hours and 41% of bags from 2004 to 2011. Will increased volunteer efforts continue to decrease GM populations?

Since 2004, the Friends volunteers have spent 3,219 hours, a total of about 80.5 forty hour work weeks, worth \$32,190 at \$10 an hour. They have gathered 1,348 thirty-three gallon bags (44,484 gallons, about 7 tanker truck loads) of Garlic Mustard. (Note in early spring a bag has hundreds of small plants and in May and June a bag has fewer but larger blooming plants).

Thank you to all the Garlic Mustard warriors who worked in all sorts of weather. Please consider joining our work parties next spring – we have made a lot of progress, but there is still a lot to do!

# The Lakeshore Nature Preserve Bird Project

by Roma Lenehan

The Bird Project began with a public planning meeting in spring of 1999, when a speaker off-handedly said, “There are no birds in the Campus Natural Areas.” Many in the audience, including Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan, were shocked, but none of the planning team objected. For years the University of Wisconsin – Madison Ornithology, Wildlife Ecology, and Ecology classes regularly used the Picnic Point area for bird observation and education. Bird study and recreational bird watching occurred throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the Picnic Point area was listed in all editions of *Wisconsin Bird Haunts* (Tessen, D, 1961, 2009).

So Roma and Glenda set out to raise awareness. They notified the birding community of the important planning underway and encouraged people to write the planners about the birds of the area.

## Checklist and Breeding Bird Study

In addition, Roma and Glenda gathered data for a checklist. The purpose of their bird study was to identify the bird species and their seasonal abundance in the Preserve as well as their microhabitat preferences. The study created a base line to allow the detection of bird population changes within the Preserve. This would enable future students and scientists to determine how the restoration of the Preserve affects the bird populations in the Preserve. Using personal contacts and the new Wisconsin bird listserve, Wisbirdn, they gathered data from multiple people. By the September, 1999, in time for the next public meeting, the Arboretum planning committee was given a draft of the Campus Natural Areas checklist which included 249 bird species recorded during the past 25 years. At this point, the draft was circulated. Birders were encouraged to make corrections and to share sightings of less common birds to determine their seasonal abundance. Data from Roma Lenehan, Jack Hailman, Philip Ashman, and Willie Hutcheson were particularly useful. At least 220 bird species (over 85% of the species on the checklist) were observed in the area between August 1999 and August 2001. A Bird Sightings Board, which allows birders to share their sightings, was put up in 2000 and is now inside the Picnic Point gate at the edge of Bill’s Woods.

From 2000 to 2002, Roma and Glenda, with the help of other birders, had a research permit and conducted a Breeding Bird Survey in the Preserve. Since most professors and students leave Madison and many local birders watch birds less in the summer, initially they had incomplete summer data. Using the methods of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (data were submitted to

the Atlas Project), 69 bird species were confirmed breeders, 11 were probable breeders, and six were possible breeders. Since then, seven probable birds have been confirmed (Broad-winged Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bank Swallow, Prothonotary Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak), and one new bird confirmed (Wild Turkey), giving a total of 76 confirmed breeding species. Two possible birds (Barred Owl and Woodcock) along with the new Black-billed Cuckoo are now probable.

Today the checklist shows the abundance and breeding status of 255 birds. Two new birds need to be added – Barrow’s Goldeneye, and Prairie Warbler.

## Bird Banding

Beginning September 2001, Mara McDonald organized volunteers to band and monitor birds at the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory. In ten years, this banding project banded more than 2000 birds of at least 70 species, educating students and the public and studying changes in bird composition with prairie restoration.

## Wisconsin Important Bird Area

In the spring of 2007, after being nominated by Roma Lenehan, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve became one of Wisconsin’s smallest Important Bird Areas based on its neotropical song bird migration and its historical and continuing bird research, education, and monitoring.

## Changes in Attitudes

In 2001, several birding community members joined the initial Friends Board to ensure that Preserve restoration maintained bird habitat. Some of these people became strong advocates for the Friends and Preserve restoration.

Today the Preserve staff is aware of the Preserve’s special status as an urban migratory stopover and bird haven. Bird and wildlife are considered in any change to the Preserve. The Preserve is site number 12 in the *Great Wisconsin Bird and Nature Trail: Southern Savanna Region*. An Accessible Birding Area is being built behind the wall along University Bay Drive in the Friends Bill’s Woods restoration. This past summer, the Chair of the Preserve Committee put up the successful Prothonotary Warbler boxes.

Students in Field Ornithology visit the Preserve in class, practice identification, and take their final in the Preserve. They, like the hundreds of other birders who visit the Preserve, take their appreciation of birds home – to the rest of the state or the even the nation. Thus the Preserve continues to serve both the birds and the birding community.



## From Bill Barker, Preserve Committee Chair

I often seek solitude in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. As I pass North Hall on my way to the wooded slope of the glacial drumlin we call Bascom Hill, I am reminded that the University of Wisconsin–Madison nurtured two remarkable individuals who contributed revolutionary ideas underpinning modern environmentalism. Inspired by a campus locust tree, John Muir eventually realized that natural habitat deserved preservation on its own merit, irrespective of its utility to humankind. Today we revere him as the Father of the National Park system for his seminal work in the high Sierras.

Aldo Leopold contributed the concept of a land ethic and beautifully blended the humanities and sciences in a Sand County Almanac to popularize the concept of habitat restoration. The simple idea that one could reclaim a cornfield as a prairie surely must stand as one of the most powerful of many Wisconsin Ideas. That the University of Wisconsin has seen fit to honor Muir, Leopold and many others and set aside over one third of its contiguous campus as a nature preserve speaks to that legacy as nothing else can, the simple testimony of deeds over words.

Coming full circle, these Wisconsin Ideas inspired folks to come together as the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Through a full decade of advocacy, philanthropy and good old elbow grease, you've helped the University transform a long-neglected asset into a vibrant tool with which to teach current and future generations of Badgers to love nature and thus be good stewards of the Earth. I am deeply honored to work alongside you all in this effort. Together we will ensure the Lakeshore Nature Preserve meets the research, teaching and outreach mission of the University for many years to come. John and Aldo would be so proud!  
---Thank you.

## Announcements

### Volunteer Days at the Preserve

Join our winter work parties:

Sunday	November 20	9 to Noon
Monday	November 21	9 to Noon
Saturday	December 17	1 to 3 PM
Monday	December 19	1 to 3 PM
Sunday	February 26	1 to 3 PM
Monday	February 27	1 to 3 PM

All work parties will meet at Picnic Point entrance.  
Contact Bryn Scriver if you have questions  
(bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu or 220-5560)

### Reminiscences and Reflections of Friends History

You are invited to send in reminiscences and reflections related to the Friends of the Preserve and the other occurrences in the Preserve during the past ten years. These could be accounts of projects, humorous stories, good wishes, or other comments. In addition, you are invited to submit photographs from the past ten years.

These writings will be displayed in a scrap book at the annual meeting (“Reminiscences and Reflections: The Friends – The First Ten Years”) and become part of the Friends archives, documenting our history.

The pictures will be displayed on the Friends website (unless you indicate that you have an objection).

Everyone is welcome to submit up to two (typed) pages of material to Roma Lenehan (rlenehan@charter.net) by February 1, 2012. Photos should be submitted to Susan Slapnick (slapnick@wisc.edu).

### Celebrate the Friends Tenth Anniversary!

Donate to the Heritage Oak Project Today!

Mail your donation with the form below.

### *YES, I want to support the Heritage Oak Project*

**Fundraising Goal: \$13,000**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Oaks \$500

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Acorns \$250

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Grasses \$100

Please make your check payable to “Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve” Seedlings \$50

I want to volunteer! Email \_\_\_\_\_ or Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to:

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

(I understand my gift is not a membership renewal but an additional donation)

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

## Friends of the Preserve Makes a Difference *(continued from pg 1)*

The 30 issues of *PRESERVE!* (originally *FCNA News*) informed members of Friends activities and Preserve news and educated people about local history and ecology. Past newsletters are available on the Friends website, providing a searchable educational resource for students and the public. This website also has current activities, maps, photographs and information about birds, history, and Preserve areas.

The Friends has organized 125 free field trips led by 62 UW professors and other experts and had 54 joint field trips with organizations such as Madison Audubon Society and Natural Heritage Land Trust. More than 1280 people have attended the Friends field trips, learning about the Preserve and its history, geology, and ecology. This year the Friends held their first all day bus field trip.

The ten Annual Meetings have had exceptional professors speak about the Preserve, its history and environment, attracting more than 800 attendees.

### **Outdoor Volunteer Work**

Begun as an outdoor volunteer group (see page 4), the Friends has been active in much of Preserve restoration. For the last decade, the main Friends project has been the Bill's Woods restoration (see page 5). The Friends also worked with students and other groups in Frautschi Point to create the Big Oak Trail and restore along it and around the two open grown oaks. The Frautschi Point

savanna edge and gully restoration has also involved the Friends, staff, and students in weed control and planting. Other projects with Friends involvement under staff supervision include the Farmhouse Hill restoration, the East Savanna edges, and the Eagle Heights Woods edge. The Friends new project is the Heritage Oak Project, which will restore an open grown oak and savanna edge, linking Bill's Woods to the prairie (to support this project, see page 9). The enhanced native plant diversity of these restorations adds beauty and increases the insect variety, allowing the Preserve to support increased bird and animal populations.

Much of the Friends volunteer efforts has been devoted to invasive species removal. Controlling invasive species is essential to maintaining or restoring the native plant communities of the Preserve (see pages 6-7).

For more than a year, the Friends in cooperation with Preserve staff have hosted two work parties per month (see page 9 for dates). Often these efforts focus on the Friends projects, but work may occur anywhere in the Preserve.

### **Thank you**

Thank you for your support of the Friends and the Preserve. You have enabled the Friends organization to make a difference in the Preserve. Please join us on April 3, 2012, for our Tenth Anniversary Celebration!

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

Save the Date!  
Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
Friends Tenth Anniversary  
Celebration  
and Annual Meeting