

2013

proved to be a vital year for the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve*. Proud of our accomplishments, we're moving full steam ahead with a newly focused mission and efforts to help make the Preserve even better. From field trips and volunteer work parties, community involvement, special events, service on committees and on the Board of Directors, to financial support, our members connect to and care for the Preserve in a great variety of ways.

Our mission is to

Inspire people to connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Annual Report

Projects - In the past year, we sponsored several events that helped *Friends* care for and connect to the Preserve and each other. The Frautschi Point planting project in May brought together many *Friends* to usher in spring while planting flowers, telling stories, and enjoying refreshments. Similarly, we celebrated the opening of the 1918 Marsh Audio Trail by walking together, listening and learning, and a picnic. In 2014, three special *Friends* events are planned for spring, with more in fall, for volunteering, learning, and having fun together.

Support - As always, the *Friends* cared for the Preserve with financial support. Thanks to membership dues and donations, the *Friends* supported five Prairie Partner interns in the Lakeshore Preserve 1.5 days per week under the supervision of Preserve staff. We also contributed to the Preserve Stewardship fund and helped buy plants and seeds for the Preserve. The *Friends* is proud to be an all-volunteer organization - 84% of our expenses went directly to the Preserve. The rest paid for the newsletter, the annual meeting, communication with the membership, and outreach. Another form of support is advocacy for the Preserve. Working last fall with Preserve staff, City and County officials, and the DNR, the *Friends* helped assure that the use of firearms is prohibited in the Preserve and the waters of Lake Mendota. The *Friends* will again have a role as advocates for the Preserve during discussions with UW Recreational Sports on their proposal for extensive development of the University Bay playing fields.

Membership - The *Friends* membership of about 300 reflects the nearly equal number of reasons people connect to the Preserve. Members are involved in field work, in Board activities and administrative work, and in enjoying the Preserve on regular walks. Among our members are expert bird watchers, artists, and people who provide financial support for the Preserve. Members use the Preserve to conduct research on water quality, plants, birds, mounds, geology, and more. Members use the Preserve as a laboratory to teach students. Some of our members are gardeners in the Community Gardens, joggers along the path, and dog walkers. Members help with prescribed burns in the Preserve, promote the Preserve to students, study mosses or mushrooms or trees. Together, we accomplish much. Our efforts through the *Friends* give us a way we can return, in some small way, what the Preserve provides for us.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2013 Financial Report

Balance January 1, 2013	\$54,426
Income	
Membership	15,565
Gifts and Memorials	2100
Note Card Sales	10
Interest	57
Total Income	\$17,732
Expenses	
Heritage Oak Project	1,460
Harriet Riley Memorial Celebration	1,446
Dodson 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip	318
Friends Gift to Preserve Stewardship Fund	1,500
Preserve Summer Interns	7,218
Friends Plantings, Seeds and Greenhouse	2,841
Newsletter Printing and Mailing	1,573
Education, Membership, Volunteer Expense	804
Annual Meeting	445
General Expense	106
Total Expenses	\$17,711
Balance December 31, 2013	\$54,447



The Preserve is a great place for families and groups to spend time together volunteering, learning, and having fun.

Volunteer - In 2013, *Friends* volunteered about 1270 hours of field work, 47% of all volunteer hours given in the Preserve. Our veteran volunteers and Preserve stewards, Roma Lenehan and Glenda Denniston provided the lion's share- Roma logged 464 hours and Glenda more than 450 in special project areas and battling invasives. Other dedicated *Friends* provided 353 hours, mostly working with Preserve staff and alongside 38 other volunteer groups. Many of these were students visiting the Preserve the first time. Volunteers from the *Friends* helped teach them proper use of equipment and plant identification while creating a fun atmosphere. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other Friends while improving the Preserve. It feels good! If you would like timely email invitations and work day photos, please send your email address to Galen Hasler at preserveFriends@gmail.com. We invite you to connect and care for the Preserve. See page 3 for this season's volunteer opportunities.

Education and Community Outreach - Throughout the year, the *Friends* worked on several levels to connect people to the Preserve- through educational field trips, outreach to the community and students, and through our newsletters and website. The *Friends* conducted 19 field trips in 2013, drawing more than 250 people to the Preserve. In 2013, *Friends* took part in several community events. In March we participated in the Eagle Heights Community Garden Seed Fair setting up a hands-on exhibit where children could watch and handle earthworms and make simple seed starting pots using recycled paper tubes. *Friends* returned to the Eagle Heights Community Center for an Earth Day Celebration with a food chain game and a bucket of garden spades for children to dig for decomposers. At UW Science Expeditions in April, we displayed colorful photographs and information about the Preserve and made the Preserve a destination "Exploration Station" by offering guided tours at Picnic Point. In the heat of August, we joined the student-organized Badger Green Scene- Party on the Path with our new display board and member-led tours along Willow Creek. We were pleased to be able to extend our environmental goodwill beyond the Preserve's boundary. Finally, our enthusiastic newsletter editors, dedicated webmaster, and volunteer coordinator connected members to Preserve activities throughout the year.

Contact Us

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Executive Committee

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Secretary: David Mickelson

Treasurer: Marcia Schmidt

Volunteer Coordinator

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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 July 10. Final submission deadline is Aug. 1.

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