



Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

University Bay—a special place for migratory birds

By Chuck Henrikson

University Bay, nestled between Picnic Point and campus, is an important stopover for migrating waterfowl. The bay provides a variety of nutrients such as aquatic plants, small fish, and invertebrates to help fuel their journey. It is also sheltered from most winds and from the white-capped waves coming from the main part of Lake Mendota.

Canada geese and mallards are common occupants in the bay. During migration, the variety of waterfowl increases dramatically. Visitors include large rafts of white-beaked, all black American coots and smaller numbers of black and white buffleheads. Common loons in their winter plumage appear singly on the bay. Other arriving ducks include redheads, canvasbacks, American wigeons, northern

shovelers, gadwalls, northern pintails, common and hooded mergansers, and common goldeneyes.

But the most spectacular of the visiting waterfowl are the flocks of tundra swans that descend on the bay from the Arctic.

These large white birds have black bills, legs, and feet. Adult males and females look quite similar, while immature swans are light gray with partially pink bills.

They keep their long necks straight when swimming and outstretched in flight. When foraging for underwater plants, they often tip up, causing the tail to point skyward, much like Canada geese.

Swans can sleep floating on the water, but as the bay turns to ice, they will climb onto the ice, lie down, and tuck their heads under a wing to sleep through the cold night.

The most common sound made by tundra swans is a mellow bugling “hoo hoo hoo.”

Last year a few swans first arrived in mid-November. Their numbers kept growing until, on December 18, there were over a thousand on the bay. By late December much of the bay was frozen over, and most of the tundra swans had moved on.

Stop by University Bay in the next few weeks and look for and listen to the tundra swans. It’s magical!



WINTER 2018–2019



A dabbling of the many waterfowl that pass through the Preserve in late fall and early winter. Clockwise from left, tundra swans gathered on the ice; hooded mergansers; and common mergansers. Photos by Chuck Henrikson.

Chuck Henrikson is an avid birder who submits sightings to eBird. He taught anatomy in the School of Veterinary Medicine before retiring in 2009.



Winter field trips

December

1 Birding Madison Lakes (Saturday, 7:30–11:00 a.m.). As winter sets in, smaller ponds and lakes in south-central Wisconsin freeze, causing migrating birds to become concentrated on Madison's large lakes, which remain open longer. We will look for waterfowl, gulls, and winter birds. This trip has produced some unusual sightings in the past, including red-throated loons—so don't miss it! Meet at the middle of UW parking lot 60. Dress warmly and bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Quentin Yoerger (255-2473, info@madisonaudubon.org).

23 4th Sunday Bird and Nature Outing (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). See box.

**4th SUNDAYS
BIRD AND NATURE OUTINGS**



Linda Deith

4th Sunday of the month, 1:30–3:00 p.m.—The Friends cosponsor bird and nature outings in the Preserve with the Friends of Urban Nature (see the website for details). A variety of expert, interesting, and informative guides lead the tours. Meet at UW parking lot 129 at Picnic Point entrance. Contact: Paul Noeldner (698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

January

12 Animal Tracking in the Preserve (Saturday, 1:00–3:00 p.m.). Join UW wildlife specialist and professor David Drake as he shows how to track foxes, coyotes, and other denizens of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Meet at UW parking lot 129 at the Picnic Point entrance. Leader: David Drake (890-0445, ddrake2@wisc.edu).

27 4th Sunday Bird and Nature Outing (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). See box.

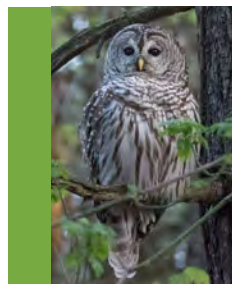
February

17 Blue-Green Algae Blooms in Madison Lakes (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). UW Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Trina McMahon presents a special "indoor field trip" to discuss the effects of algae blooms on the Madison lakes and their impact on the shores of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Meet at the UW Eagle Heights Community Center, 611 Eagle Heights Drive. Leader: Trina McMahon (890-2836, trina.mcmahon@wisc.edu).

24 4th Sunday Bird and Nature Outing (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). See box.

March

24 4th Sunday Bird and Nature Outing (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). See box.



ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date: April 9, 2019

Please plan on attending our annual meeting this spring. Join us at the Arboretum Visitor Center to be inspired by our guest speaker, learn about current projects, and visit with fellow members.

Volunteer work parties

Volunteering is a great way to enjoy the Preserve. Long pants (not leggings) and closed-toe shoes are required; tools and gloves are provided. Groups and youth are welcome with advance notice. For more details, contact Bryn Scriver, 220-5560, bryn.scriver@wisc.edu.

TIME: 9:00 a.m.–noon

Date	Meeting place
Dec 2 Sun	Frautschi Point lot
Feb 23 Sat	Frautschi Point lot
Mar 9 Sat	Frautschi Point lot
31 Sun	Picnic Point, Lot 129



Mother Nature's valentine

How students saved the Class of 1918 Marsh a half century ago

By Wally Niebauer

There might well be a parking lot where the Class of 1918 Marsh sits today if it hadn't been for an ambitious team of UW students in 1969. It began as an assignment in an Environmental Resource Management course where my team's original idea was simply to stop the university from illegal dumping into the 15-acre wetland on west campus then known as University Bay Marsh.

The idea changed quickly, however, when our research turned up university plans to fill in, build on, and pave over the entire area. We immediately refocused on the larger issue, preserving the entire site as a natural area.

Our first challenge was to demonstrate that the site was an asset to the university, not just a "mosquito factory," as it had been portrayed. We had noticed that there was a lot of waterfowl activity and bird counts supported that observation, yielding stunning results—daily flocks of up to 10 species totaled more than 800 each day, not including coots.

But why was this marsh such a magnet for waterfowl? A plant survey provided part of the answer, revealing a veritable smorgasbord of waterfowl foods. Further information, from research on land use in the Madison area, showed agriculture had seriously depleted area wetlands and that University Bay Marsh was a rarity. In short, one of the most important wetlands left in the area was right on campus.

We followed with public opinion surveys, extensive media coverage, and monitoring the myriad university planning meetings that had the marsh on the agenda. And then it came down to a single presentation to a committee that would decide the marsh's fate.



© Jeff Miller/UW-Madison

Class of 1918 Marsh (center) with Picnic Point and Lake Mendota in the background. In 1969, plans called for the marsh to be paved over in favor of parking. Thanks to the tireless efforts of a small group of students, resources were instead channeled towards making the marsh a haven for wildlife. Picture taken in October 2011.

The meeting came up so suddenly that I didn't know about it until I got a call from our team leader, Dick McCabe. The university committee laid out its plans, and then he presented our findings. He said the questions from the committee were challenging, but in every case we had specific, fact-based responses. Finally, one of the committee members said to his colleagues, "You don't get it, do you? The university trained these students and obviously did a heckuva job. Their argument is much more persuasive than ours."

To my knowledge, that was the last serious assault on the marsh, and it came two months before the first Earth Day.

Wally Niebauer retired as professor of communications in 2012. He writes, "My specialty has always been environmental and natural resource issues and organizations, which is a direct line from my experiences at the UW."

CALL FOR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS: Monitoring water quality on Lake Mendota, summer 2019

We're looking for up to five volunteers to form a team that will take water samples twice a week at the boat ramp near Lot 60 from May through September.

The samples will yield important data about Lake Mendota's water quality conditions and will help researchers better understand how algae blooms develop and migrate around the lake.

For more details, please contact Doris Dubielzig, dbdubielzig@gmail.com, 608-239-4196.



Thanks to our many volunteers— together we care for the Preserve

A special thank you to our many volunteers. More than 30 of our members volunteered in the field and on Friends projects this past year. Other volunteers worked countless hours on organizational tasks and in educational and outreach events. All in all, 55 members volunteered this past year, making the Friends the vibrant non-profit organization it is.

Our thanks also go to the Preserve staff: **Bryn Scriver**, coordinator of volunteer events in the Preserve; **Adam Gundlach**, supervisor of the summer interns; **Laura Wyatt**, Preserve program manager; and **Gary Brown**, Preserve director.

Roma Lenehan, with the assistance of **Noriko Jackson** and others, worked 254 hours pulling 63 bags of garlic mustard, many filled with hundreds of the small invasive plants in early spring. She focused on the western section of the Preserve, including Frautschi Point and Eagle Heights Woods. The May Garlic Mustard Pull of the Friends yielded 28 additional bags.

For the past 10 years, **Glenda Denniston** has raised more than 1,000 wild-flower plants from seeds in the greenhouse annually. This year's sprouts were planted in the Frautschi Point area, Biocore Prairie, and the path to Picnic Point.

We invite our members to become actively involved. Please consider these volunteer opportunities—you will enjoy working with and meeting other Friends:

- **Citizen Science**—monitoring bats, the bluebird trail, purple martins
- **Online educational projects** using the iNaturalist app for sharing nature observations in the Preserve
- **Science Expeditions** educational event in spring, sponsored by the UW for the community
- **Friends committee work**, such as education, communication, membership, financial committees, and special projects
- Contribute to the **newsletter**
- Help **host our field trips**
- **Volunteer days** in the Preserve, joining Preserve staff, students and Friends

Email us at preserveFriends@gmail.com.



John Magnuson discusses lake plants

© Marj Rhine



Marj Rhine and Gisela Kutzbach at spring planting

© Glenda Denniston

FIELD AND PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Patricia Becker	Jeff Koziol
Ann Burgess	Gisela Kutzbach
Janis Cooper	Roma Lenehan
Margaret Dentine	Olympia
Glenda Denniston	Mathiaparanam
Doris Dubielzig	Seth McGee
Dick Dubielzig	Karen Nakasone
Peter Fisher	Paul Noeldner
Pam Fornell	Paul Quinlan
Galen Hasler	Marjorie Rhine
Grace Hasler	Marcia Schmidt
Kennedy Gilchrist	Steve Sentoff
Sarah Goldenberg	Monica Sentoff
Chuck Henrikson	Susan Slapnick
Noriko Jackson	Lillian Tong
Arlene Koziol	

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

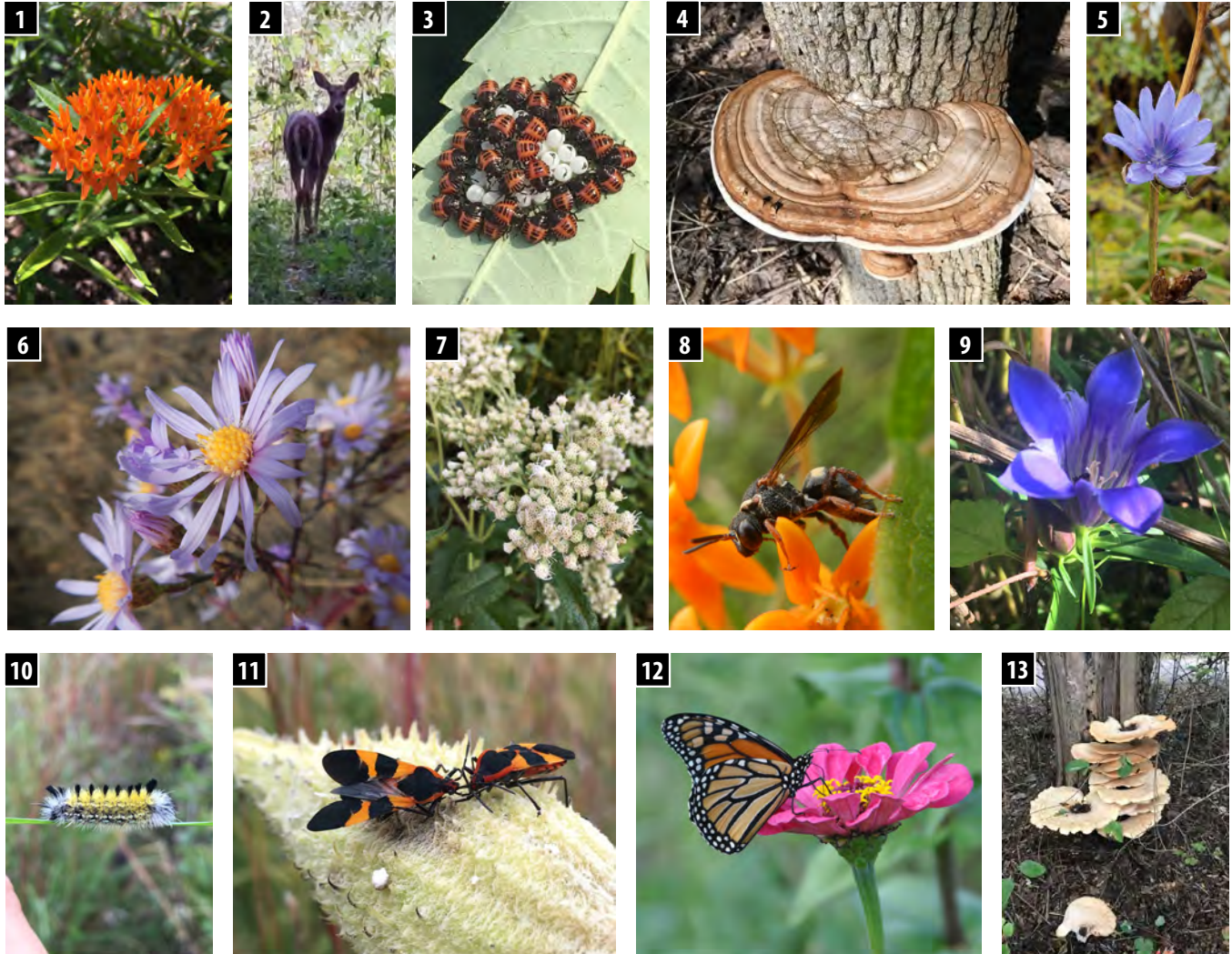
Carolyn Byers	Seth McGee
Susan Carpenter	Scot Moss
Diane Dempsey	Paul Noeldner
Glenda Denniston	Gisela Kutzbach
David Drake	Jim Lattis
Doris Dubielzig	Amy Rosebrough
Dick Dubielzig	Jackie Sandberg
Sean Gere	Gillian Shaw
Adam Gundlach	Edgar Spalding
Chuck Henrikson	Emily Steinwehe
Roma Lenehan	Ryan Treves
John Magnuson	Paul Quinlan
Dave Mickelson	Kenny Younger
Carol McCartney	Quentin Yoerger

ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Jean Bahr	John Magnuson
Patricia Becker	Olympia
Amanda Budyak	Mathiaparanam
Carolyn Byers	Seth McGee
Susan Carpenter	MJ Morgan
Sarah Congdon	Paul Noeldner
Linda Deith	Mike Parsen
Doris Dubielzig	Paul Quinlan
Peter Fisher	Steve Sellwood
Kennedy Gilchrist	Steve Sentoff
Galen Hasler	Marcia Schmidt
Gisela Kutzbach	Mitchell Thomas
Roma Lenehan	Lillian Tong

DOCUMENTING BIODIVERSITY

iNaturalist sightings at the Preserve



The iNaturalist app allows users to become citizen scientists, recording data on where organisms were spotted and learning about nature in the process.

The photos here offer a glimpse into the spectacular diversity found within the Preserve. As of mid-November, over 90 people contributed 2,400 observations to iNaturalist, recording nearly 500 different species.

To see more, visit iNaturalist.org and search for "Lakeshore Nature Preserve." Better yet, download the app and start adding your own observations.

#	Species (common, scientific names)	Photographer
1.	Butterflyweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	microcosmos
2.	White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	wanderer123
3.	Harlequin bug nymphs (<i>Murgantia histrionica</i>)	O. Mathiaparanam
4.	Artist's bracket (<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>)	microcosmos
5.	Chicory (<i>Cichorium intybus</i>)	wanderer123
6.	Smooth blue aster (<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>)	Mark Nofsinger
7.	Common boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)	microcosmos
8.	Cuckoo bee (<i>Epeolus bifasciatus</i>)	Mark Nofsinger
9.	Downy gentian (<i>Gentiana puberulenta</i>)	O. Mathiaparanam
10.	Virginia Ctenucha caterpillar (<i>Ctenucha virginica</i>)	O. Mathiaparanam
11.	Large milkweed bug (<i>Oncopeltus fasciatus</i>)	O. Mathiaparanam
12.	Monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Mark Nofsinger
13.	Dryad's saddle (<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>)	Donna Pomeroy

BIRD OBSERVATORY

Banding birds in the Preserve

By Gisela Kutzbach

An early Saturday morning walk along the Biocore Prairie this past summer offered an experience of a different kind of birding. This was the second year for Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Coordinator of the Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center, to continue the work of Mara McDonald. The all-volunteer Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Observatory is now in its 18th year of operation. "Banding," Jackie explains, "offers a special opportunity for people to see birds up close, learn about their migration and nesting patterns, and understand how natural areas enhance their biological success." One goal is to study comparative species diversity and abundance.

Master banders, like the Observatory director Mark Berres and Jackie Sandberg, have thousands of hours of experience and are licensed and authorized to capture wild birds. They supervise and train volunteers, including UW students and members

of the Madison community. Each bird is caught in a mist net, carefully removed, measured (weight, age, sex, and a variety of other measurements), banded, and released.

This year, Jackie reports, "We officially banded and netted 88 birds at the prairie. Our total count is 154 birds for 2018."

Banding facts:

- Between 2001 and 2006, the volunteers netted more than 1,394 birds of 70+ species.
- Consistently present were American goldfinch, Baltimore oriole, chipping sparrow, black-capped chickadee, common yellowthroat, gray catbird, and song sparrow.
- An indigo bunting was netted twice, 7 years apart, probably coming from adjacent woodlands. Recapture allows researchers to assess field fidelity.



Common yellowthroat warbler.

© Jackie Sandberg

- About 60 million birds, representing hundreds of species, have been banded in North America since 1904, and about 4 million bands have been recovered and reported.

We've posted annual reports documenting what species were caught at the Biocore Prairie and how many, along with how many were recaptured: <https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/bird-observatory.html>.

Gisela Kutzbach, atmospheric scientist and historian of science, is a nature enthusiast and served 3 years as president of the Friends group.



Comparing plumage of two male orioles.

© Vivek Malleshappa



Jackie Sandberg bands a bird at the Biocore Prairie Bird Banding Observatory.

© Josh Seibel



Bluebirds house hunting

© Arlene Koziol



Bluebird eggs

© Gisela Kutzbach

YEAR IN REVIEW

Birdhouse updates—for the birds!

Bluebird houses: This spring we removed eight of the 16 houses with the goal of reducing invasions by house wrens and house sparrows. Bluebirds nested in four of the remaining boxes and laid 16 eggs total. Eight young birds successfully fledged. Tree swallows raised 17–19 fledglings. House wrens nested in two boxes and raised six babies, down from about 50 fledglings in 2017.

Purple martin house: After last year’s successful house installation and early adoption by purple martins, we had high hopes this year. In April we opened seven of the compartments and monitored the house weekly. Starlings found the house and attempted to nest repeatedly, mastering the shields that were installed to keep them out. Unfortunately, the same shields also seemed to baffle the purple martins. We removed some shields in early July, but the martins showed no interest, possibly because their nesting season had passed. Next year we plan to open the house in late March and deter starlings from the day of opening. We have also purchased new front panels that are intended to be starling resistant.



Monitoring the purple martin house

© Gisela Kutzbach

I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE by joining or making an additional gift

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

- I'd like to **VOLUNTEER**—please send me information by email.
- I'd like to **GO PAPERLESS** and receive my newsletter by email.

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
 P.O. Box 5534
 Madison, WI 53705

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



© Arlene Koziol

- Join Renew Gift

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Student \$10
- Individual \$20
- Household \$35
- Steward \$50
- Patron \$100
- Other \$_____

ADDITIONAL GIFT

(For members—does not include membership)

- Woodland . . . \$500
- Savanna \$250
- Wetland \$100
- Prairie \$50
- Other \$_____

Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705

Ideas and *Friends* announcements for our newsletter and website are welcome. If you'd prefer to go paperless and receive your newsletter electronically, please email us at preserveFriends@gmail.com

- President:* Doris Dubielzig
- Vice President:* Steve Sentoff
- Secretary:* Paul Quinlan
- Treasurer:* Amanda Budyak
- Field trips:* Peter Fisher
- Newsletter:* Linda Deith
- Friends Volunteer Coordinator:*
Galen Hasler, 608-206-5218

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

Please visit our website: www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com



Linda Deith

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WINTER POETRY

The emptiness between stars—

by Robin Chapman (in memoriam John R. Snyder)

holds stars too faint to see—
my garden frozen fast this winter
is host to voles and buried toads,
its earthworms of rich soil

burrowed six feet under,
below the frost line, or, yes,
cast into egg sacks to come back
next generation when lake ice

cracks and the sandhill cranes
walk the fields again. As to what
stirs among the garlic bulbs
and winter spinach seed

under the windrows of snow—
the slowed life of microbes,
fungi, and grubs work the earth
that ice crystals fracture

to a finer-grained consistency—
and the heart, beating
in darkness, breaks open,
questioning the stars
it cannot see.

Friends member Robin Chapman is a poet, artist, gardener, and professor emerita of communication sciences and disorders at the UW–Madison.

© 2014 Robin Chapman. Originally appeared in *Orion Magazine*:
Tumblr post, Poetry Exchange, May 14, 2014.