Spring/summer field trips

April 8 Exploration Stations at Picnic Point (Sunday, 2:00–3:30 p.m.) Learn the natural and cultural history of Picnic Point with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Stop at our four exploration stations to learn from experts about rocks and fossils, trees, and birds. We'll have binoculars and a spotting scope available. Children can engage in related activities at each station. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.*

April 18 Beyond Backyard Birding (Wednesday, 7:30–9:30 a.m.) This trip is especially for backyard birders looking to improve their skills. Bring the whole family. We will have binoculars for loan. This trip is limited to 20 people—registration is required! Register with the Madison Audubon office (255-2473, bmarsicek@madisonaudubon.org). Meet Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: Kenny Younger.

April 22 Birding and Nature Walk with Ryan Treves (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.).

Spring Birds. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.*

April 29 Birding and Nature Walk with Glenda Denniston (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) Bill's Woods Spring Wildflowers (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) Explore this Friends project, started in 2001. Learn how to identify spring ephemerals such as wood phlox, violet, bloodroot, Jacob's ladder, wild strawberry, and many others. This is a family-friendly hike. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: Glenda Denniston, 231-1530, denniston@wisc.edu.

May 4 The Night Sky in the Preserve (Friday, 8:00–9:00 p.m.) Weather permitting, join the staff of the University of Wisconsin Space Place in viewing the spring sky. After a short introduction about the stars and planets, take a closer look by telescope. Meet at UW parking lot 131 (at the intersection of University Bay Drive and Lake Mendota Drive). Leader: Jim Lattis, 262-4779, jim.lattis@gmail.com.

May 16 Warblers of Frautschi Point (Wednesday, 7:30–9:30 a.m.) We will focus on seeing warblers through leafy foliage and will look for other spring migrants. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot on Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: Roma Lenehan, 238-5406, rlenehan@charter.net.

May 27 Birding and Nature Walk with Emily Steinwehe (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.).

Plant Phenology. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.*

June 3 Vision at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve: Our Nocturnal Neighbors (Sunday, 1:00–3:00 p.m.) Cosponsored with the McPherson Eye Research Institute, this special field trip, to be held at the Eagle Heights Community Center. Short presentations on the opossum and the flying squirrel by comparative ocular pathologist Gillian Shaw and wildlife ecologist David Drake, followed by handson stations and a hike in the Preserve. Park at the Eagle Heights Community Center at 611 Eagle Heights Dr.

June 24 Birding and Nature Walk with John Magnuson at the Class of 1918 Marsh (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Hike around the Class of 1918 Marsh with John Magnuson. This easy walk will reflect on the past, present, and future of the marsh – its history, nature, and challenges. The marsh's story is one of change and it will continue to change. Meet across from Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: john.magnuson@wisc.edu

June 27 Lake Mendota Boat Trip (Wednesday, 9:00–11:30 a.m.; weather date: Friday, June 29) Learn about Lake Mendota and the shoreline of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve aboard LIMNOS, the research vessel for teaching, research, and outreach operated by the UW Center for Limnology. Group size is limited to 12; reserve your place early for this popular field trip. Meet at Hasler Limnology Laboratory one block west of Memorial Union. Register with john.magnuson@wisc.edu.

July 14 The Biocore Prairie Experience (Saturday, 9:00–11:00 a.m.). Get a behind-the-scenes summer look at natural restoration efforts and various student related research projects. The UW Biocore Prairie provides a unique and successful natural classroom experience that supports the goals of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: Seth McGee, 265-2870, seth.mcgee@wisc.edu.

July 22 Birding and Nature Walk (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.) See right column.

July 29 Native Pollinators in the Preserve (Sunday, 9:00–11:00 a.m.) Join us in searching for bees and other pollinators while learning about their diversity and lifestyles as well as the importance of these intriguing insects. Meet at Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: Susan Carpenter, 886-7504, susan.carpenter@wisc.edu.

August 4 Bird Banding in the Preserve (Saturday, 7:00 a.m.–noon) Join Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Rehabilitation Training Coordinator for the Dane County Humane Society to learn about bird banding and our efforts towards conservation. Stop by any time between the listed hours. Park Picnic Point entrance and walk up to the Biocore Prairie above the Eagle Heights Gardens. Leader: Jackie Sandberg, 838-0413, sandberg@giveshelter.org.

August 11 Pretty Things with Wings Saturday, 10:00 a.m.—noon) Join in a search for butterflies, dragonflies, and an occasional bird. Bring your binoculars. Co-sponsored with the Madison Audubon Society and the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association. Meet at UW Picnic Point entrance.* Leader: Edgar Spalding, 265-5294, spalding@wisc.edu.

August 26 Birding and Nature Walk (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). meet at Picnic Point entrance.*

* UW Parking lot 129