



# Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

FALL 2022

## Preserving the Preserve: the June 15 Storms

*MJ Morgan and Adam Gundlach*

The night of June 15, 2022, saw severe thunderstorms sweeping across Dane County. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve, with its multiple habitats and exceptionally tall trees, took a hard hit. According to Field Projects Manager Adam Gundlach, over fifty trees were downed, with thirty falling across trails and locations where visitors usually congregate. "The storms did not discriminate," he says. "Red and white oak, ash, basswood, hackberry, hickory, maple, box elder, black cherry, pine, willow, mulberry and catalpa were among the injured and fallen trees." Straight-line winds, some at near tornadic level, had uprooted vulnerable trunks and snapped limbs and overhanging branches. The small UW Preserve Staff,

summer student interns led by Adam Gundlach, made heroic efforts to clear these trees over the next few days. Trail safety was seriously impacted.

A drama also unfolded from a direct lightning strike to a large shoreline cottonwood. "The top of the tree was blown apart, with multiple large limbs mangled and hung up above the Picnic Point Trail," Adam recounted. He would have liked to keep the remaining tree intact, but inspection showed "a large, twisting cavity in the trunk." The hollow niches made it difficult to extinguish the fire. The day after the storms, a walker called in a report of a smoking tree. Warm winds kept the fire going; the crown was still burning.

Multiple Madison Fire Department and UWPD units responded. Reaching the tree along the shore proved difficult, and in the end, the Madison Fire Department's Lake Assault Boat arrived to pump a water stream onto the cottonwood. Using a bucket truck, Adam Gundlach then worked with the UW Grounds Department Arborist crew, who were able to maneuver the truck down the narrow path to remove heavy cottonwood limbs remaining over the trail. He comments that the bole of the cottonwood with its charred top is still standing, "providing good roosting and nesting habitat for a variety of critters." Staff now say they have experienced their first wildfire in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.



Lake Assault Boat pumping water onto the burning tree.



Up in the bucket!



**INVITATION TO MEMBERS:**

## Meet the Board in Person at Allen Centennial Gardens

Tuesday, September 6, 6:00p.m. at Allen Centennial Gardens

Dear Friends,

Of the many things the pandemic has changed about our lives, the replacement of in-person interaction with virtual alternatives has been one of the most significant. If the pandemic ended tomorrow, many of us would likely continue to use apps like Zoom for their convenience and ability to bring people together over distance. Yet there are downsides to convening in a virtual world.

The Friends Board has been meeting electronically since before I joined in the spring of 2020. While convenient, virtual meetings themselves can be distant. We strongly feel a need to interact face to face. So, starting this September, to ground our board

meetings and make them open and accessible to all members, the Friends board will resume meeting in person at Steenbock Library, Room 240, on the first Tuesdays of each month except January and August. These meetings will follow a “hybrid” model, allowing attendees to come in person or via Zoom as they wish. Because the pandemic is still very much present in Dane County, all in-person attendees are asked to wear a mask for the safety of everyone else in the room. Thank you.

In addition, to celebrate our return to in-person meetings, on September 6, the Friends board will be gathering at Allen Centennial Gardens to explore the garden’s plantings with staff Reba Luiken and Ryan Dostal while

socializing with all who wish to stop by. I will be there to welcome anyone who arrives after 6:00 p.m. Before we walk over to Steenbock for our meeting at 7:00, I plan to catch up face-to-face with as many Friends as I can, so mark your calendars! Please come and meet new members, greet old friends...and consider staying a bit for our meeting. Members are welcome to attend all meetings.

The board and I are grateful for your continued support of our mission: to inspire people to connect with and care for the Preserve. We cannot do it without you. Looking forward to sharing our appreciation in person.

All my best,  
Will Vuyk, *President*

## Wasp Mantidfly in the Preserve: A Rare Encounter

Glenda Denniston

For many years I have been photographing any insect or other invertebrate I see on wildflowers in an attempt to document which species of plants are favored by which invertebrates. So on June 25, when I saw what I thought was a wasp nectaring on the flower of a common milkweed in the field edge near Second Oak, Frautschi Point, I took

two photographs. It was not until I got home and examined my photos that I realized it was not a wasp but rather an entirely different insect totally unknown to me. Most of the creature looked very much like a paper wasp, but its head and front end uncannily resembled a praying mantis. It was a wasp mantidfly, *Climaciella brunnea*, not a wasp, mantid or a fly at all -- but instead, an insect more closely related to lacewings and ant lions, in the order Neuroptera.

This strange insect is a superb mimic of a paper wasp, not only closely resembling it physically but, when threatened, also mimicking its behavior. Even more remarkable, though, is the life history of the wasp mantidfly. In spring the female lays up to 3,000 eggs on the underside of leaves, each connected to a

silken thread. After hatching, the larvae slide to the ground. They are predators even as larvae, specially adapted with appendages that allow them to stand upright where they await any passing spider, most often a wolf spider. A successful larva grabs the back of this spider and rides it, feeding on its blood until it mates. If the spider is a female, she will lay eggs in an egg case. If on a male, the larva transfers to a female during the mating. When the female spider produces her egg case, the larva enters the sac before it hardens and continues its growth in that protected environment, feeding on the spider eggs. It later emerges from the spider egg sac as an adult. Wasp mantidflies are not commonly seen, and I consider myself fortunate to have come upon one. For more information on this fascinating insect, see <https://uwm.edu/field-station/wasp-mantidfly/>.





# Fall & Winter Field Trips

Arlene Koziol

## September

### 10 Fall Migrating Birds

*Saturday, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.*

Join great birders Jill Feldkamp and Roma Lenahan as they search for fall migrants, including confusing fall warblers, flycatchers and sparrows. Enjoy hiking through woods, prairies, and gardens. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leaders: Jill Feldkamp and Roma Lenahan (rlenahan@charter.net, 608-238-5406).

### 24 Eight-Legged Creatures: Spiders and Daddy Longlegs Tour

*Saturday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.*

Join Guilherme Gainett, UW Integrated Biology graduate student in the Sharma lab, on a tour to find spiders, daddy longlegs and other arachnids. We will explore the diversity of arachnid species and behaviors in their natural habitat and learn more about their foraging strategies and where to find them. Since most arachnids are nocturnal, we will explore the Preserve at night with flashlights. Come learn more about these fascinating creatures! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Guilherme Gainett (ggainett@gmail.com).

### 25 Fascinating Fall Fungi

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join Marie Trest, mycologist with the UW Department of Botany, for a free guided outing to look for and learn about some of the amazing varieties of colorful and fascinating fungi that live here, including common species that you might see along the trails. We will look for mushrooms and examples of fungi that are pathogens, ones that play a role in decomposition and recycling and ones that form mutually beneficial partnerships with plants and

algae. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Marie Trest (marie.trest@wisc.edu, 608 262-7475).

## October

### 9 Forest Bathing

*Sunday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

Spending time in nature is known to elicit many beneficial changes in the body and mind. The practice of being mindfully immersed in the forest atmosphere (called Forest Bathing) can be a portal to better health and wellbeing. On this walk we'll explore the concept of Forest Bathing and discuss the science behind the healing power of nature. Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: Seth McGee (seth.mcgee@wisc.edu).

### 23 Poetry in the Preserve: a walk down the "It's In Our Nature" audio trail

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

In the beauty of autumn, a poem hides under every leaf and behind every snowflake. Experience poems collected from our annual "It's In Our Nature" open mic event as Friends President Will Vuyk and Friends of Urban Nature (FUN) ambassador Paul Noeldner join you on this literary excursion. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Will Vuyk (wvuyk@wisc.edu) and Paul Noeldner (paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com).

## November

### 13 Geologic History of the Preserve and Madison Lakes

*Sunday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

In collaboration with the Badger Talks program, Geologist Dave Mickelson will picture for us the glaciers that were here 25,000 years ago and their effects on the landscape. Walk with him from the Lake Mendota shore at Raymer's

Cove up to the vistas in Eagle Heights woods. Carpool to and meet at Raymer's Cove parking lot, 2900 Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: David Mickelson (davem@geology.wisc.edu, 608-338-7063).

### 27 Fun Fall Birding

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join enthused birder Chuck Henrikson and Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner along with other experienced and beginning birders for a free, family-friendly guided walk. University Bay is an important rest stop for waterfowl during fall migration. We will look for large white tundra swans, beautiful buffleheads, comical chattering coots, diving grebes and mergansers and common loons making their wild calls. The large natural areas of the Preserve also host year-round residents like black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, barred owls and winter visitors: tree sparrows and juncos moving south to Wisconsin for the season. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leaders: Chuck Henrikson (ckhenrikson@gmail.com) and Paul Noeldner (paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com).

## December

### 10 Winter Waterfowl Wonder

*Saturday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

As smaller ponds and lakes start to freeze each winter, migrating waterfowl gather on larger lakes where the water remains open longer. We will first set our sights on University Bay to look for gulls and waterfowl, including tundra swans. Participants will also keep eyes and ears open for resident winter birds along the shore. Dress warmly! Meet at the northeast part of UW-Madison Lot 60 (800 Walnut St.). This field trip is in partnership with the UW-Madison student chapter of the Audubon



Society. Leaders: Cole Roecker (cjroecker@wisc.edu) and Anne Pearce (anne.pearce@wisc.edu).

## 25 A Holiday Walk: Friends' Favorite Places

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Need a nature break from the festivities? Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner and Friends board members for a free, family-friendly guided walk on easy hiking paths through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Learn about the places they love in the Preserve and hear about Friends' citizen science and volunteer projects. See the Preserve for yourself and explore places you have learned about. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Paul Noeldner (paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com).

## January

### 14 Nature Writing Workshop

*Saturday, time and place to be determined.*

Writing about nature is one of the best ways to understand and appreciate the world around us. But writing is hard! Fortunately, the inspiring Marjorie Rhine, professor of English at UW Whitewater, will lead a writing workshop that will help us discover, organize and express our nature experiences. Location and time TBD. Please check the Friends website later in the year for more information. Leader: Marjorie Rhine (rhinem@uw.edu).

### 22 Winter Wonderland

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Enjoy a winter walk at the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve in January. Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner and take in some of winter's magic! The trees and trails of the Preserve are as beautiful as a picture postcard under a blanket of white snow. Stop to reflect on the small, surprising beauty of green moss peeping from a log or rock. Look for amazing ice sculptures along the shoreline. Listen for cheery winter birds. Watch for animal tracks

and try to guess what critters are doing. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Paul Noeldner (paul\_noeldner@hotmail.com).

## February

### 5 Predator Insects and Wasps: Their Roles and Benefits

*Sunday, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.*

An enthusiastic student of insect ecology and predator-prey interactions, Ben Iuliano of the UW Entomology Gratton Lab studies how the availability of prey affects predator population dynamics as well as the benefits of predators as biological controls. He will discuss wasps and other predatory insects in our gardens. By understanding these misunderstood insects, we can take steps to maximize the health of our urban ecosystems. This indoor, February-friendly event will be held as an extension of the Wednesday Nite @ the Lab series. Location: The Genetics Biotechnology Center Auditorium. At the intersection of University Avenue and Randall Avenue, it is served by over a dozen Metro bus lines. Parking is available for a small fee in Lot 20 at 1390 University Avenue. The Lot 20 garage is attached to the ADA-compliant Genetics Biotech Center, so it's a short, protected stroll or roll from your car to the auditorium. Speaker: Ben Iuliano (biuliano@wisc.edu).

### 25 "It's In Our Nature: Insight" Poetry Open Mic

*Saturday, 3:00 p.m.*

Featuring poets of all experience levels, we hope to bring writers together to share their small curiosities, sweeping odes or any piece of environmental writing in between. Through writing we can capture the imagery of our mind's eye, looking inward to draw emotion, beauty, and truth from the outside world. We look forward to sharing each other's "insight" at our fourth annual event. Leader: Will Vuyk (wvuyk@wisc.edu). Location TBD (Zoom or hybrid). Please check the Friends website early in 2023.

## 26 Winter Birds

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join Chuck Henrikson, birder extraordinaire, and enjoy some of winter's birds! Even with ice and snow, there are beautiful, bright noisy birds to encounter at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve: blue jays, cardinals, tufted titmice, woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, wild turkeys, owls and more! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Chuck Henrikson (ckhenrikson@gmail.com).

## March

### 11 The Mounds of Observatory Hill and Willow Creek

*Saturday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

Join UW Historic & Cultural Resources Manager Emeritus Daniel Einstein on a visit to the effigy mounds of Willow Creek and Observatory Hill (the lovely bird and two-tailed water spirit). Learn about the mound builder culture and possible interpretations for the meaning of the shapes. Your knowledgeable leader will also discuss current land management methods and protocols adopted by the university to care for the mounds and other archaeological sites on campus. Meeting place TBD. Leader: Daniel Einstein (daniel.einstein@wisc.edu). Please check the Friends website early in 2023.

### 26 Early Bird Migrants

*Sunday, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.*

The vernal equinox says that spring has sprung! Join Dane Gallagher for early spring magic! The bays, shorelines, woodlands, marshes and prairies of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve offer food and shelter for a variety of bird species. This means the Preserve is a great place to find returning migrants. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Leader: Dane Gallagher (dane.gallagher9@gmail.com).



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*thank you*





## Preserve Master Plan Update

Rhonda H. James, PLA, ASL,  
Senior Landscape Architect

The planning team is busy this summer evaluating feedback and further investigating to inform revisions to the first draft of the master plan. The revised plan will then be shared with a group of local experienced professionals; they will contribute to aspects of land management, wildlife and restoration. The updated set of recommendations will be presented to the public during the fall semester.

The master plan process, involving continual revising, seeks to provide direction on amenities as well as vegetation goals. We look to the future in making recommendations: uses, efficient management and the changing climate. The plan will consider opportunities for education, research, respite and well-being at UW-Madison. These goals must also be balanced with the responsibility to protect cultural features and enhance the diverse healthy natural environments of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

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\*Indicates new members

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

## CREATIVE WRITING IN THE PRESERVE

# It's In Our Nature – more events coming this fall and winter!

*Will Vuyk*

The Friends Field Trip Committee is pleased to announce an expanded lineup of poetry and nature writing opportunities on our fall/winter calendar. On **October 23**, "Poetry in the Preserve" will take attendees on a tour of our poetry audio trail, assembled from the works of presenters at our "It's In Our Nature" events. Each poem is assigned to a place within the Preserve that complements the content and imagery of the writing. Blending the art of the poem with the scenery of the Preserve can heighten our appreciation of both.

Not only do we have a wealth of beautiful scenery in the Preserve, but we also have a remarkable roster of poets contributing materials to this project. Our 2021 poetry audio trail can be found on our website under "People and Events" and then "March 2021." We are currently building our 2022 audio trail which

will feature another brilliant selection of poetry. Former Friends president Doris Dubielzig read her poem "Making Waves" at our 2022 open mic in response to that theme.

### *Making Waves* *Doris Dubielzig, February, 2022*

The thrill of discovery lies in the nooks of the shore;  
We find work of recovery learning its complex lore.

Screaming aloft an osprey hovers,  
In the shallows blue gills hurry,  
While cattails provide leafy cover  
And water fleas bob and scurry.

Rounding the point, we lose the windbreak  
To battle the full force of waves and air.  
We point our craft toward a speedboat's wake;  
The crest lifts our bow and slides under a share.

This rhythm of lifting and dipping with grace,  
Of lovingly navigating aquatic routes,  
Moves our boat forward in time and space,  
While transporting us home to our roots.

Next, on **January 14, 2023**, English Professor Marjorie Rhine, UW-Whitewater, will be leading a NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP. We hope the writing confidence resulting from

this opportunity will inspire participants to present at our 2023 "It's In Our Nature" open mic scheduled for **February 25**. The theme this time will be "Insight." Every day our minds sift through a sea of thoughts and sensory impressions, casting the world around us in vivid shades of beauty, emotion and what we think to be true. Poetry lets us capture the magic of how we experience the outside world - a magic we can only see by looking within. We await your own "insights" eagerly. Please check our website later in the year for more information about these two opportunities. Happy writing!

## PUMA Fledglings Are Soaring!

*Gisela Kutzbach*

Our purple martin colony is steadily growing. The numbers for breeding pairs, eggs and fledglings surpass counts of the successful last season. In 2022, our citizen scientists have noted eight sets of parents and 32 fledglings. They certainly thrive next to the Biocore Prairie with its insect load. Way to go, PUMAs!



LIVING ON THE EDGE

## Wild Turkeys in the Preserve

MJ Morgan

The movements of wild turkeys are entrancing: heads turning jerkily, an eye sharp for dangers, necks suddenly stretching up as a beak grabs an insect from a leaf, then swooping down to peck in leaf litter. Grown hens and gobblers scatter ahead, followed often by a waving line of adolescents and poults. Like domesticated poultry, these wild turkeys do not move evenly. Watch and enjoy the laggards suddenly running to catch up. The ebb and flow in a flock out foraging is one of their endearing traits. In the Preserve today, visitors note two separate flocks or rafters of turkeys, the collective plural; an observer this summer counted as many as twenty turkeys in one group. Yet these clans are likely quite different from those seen two years ago; and fifty years back, no one saw a wild turkey anywhere in Wisconsin. They were gone. Unrestricted hunting and habitat destruction had literally wiped them out.

Efforts to restock eastern wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) did not succeed until the mid-1970s, when Wisconsin traded 135 ruffed grouse to Missouri in exchange for 45 wild-born turkeys. These wild birds were released in the Driftless region, Vernon

County, where they thrived. Other wild turkeys released after this slowly began to repopulate the state. Experts at Wisconsin DNR noted that turkeys did very well in areas with diverse habitats demarcated by miles and miles of hardy edge vegetation: brush, tall forbs and grasses, whip saplings and leaf debris. The edge effect, as it came to be known, is defined as how populations of all living creatures are influenced by access to liminal zones that divide habitats, such as woodland from old fields, mown meadows from road edges, or a tallgrass prairie from an orchard. Positive edge effect appears wherever there is rich transition environment. Our Preserve is filled with such transition zones, and wild turkeys are some of the prime beneficiaries.

Turkeys are ground nesters looking always for protection from predators such as raccoon, opossum, fox and snakes. All are ruthless savagers of turkey eggs and hens on nests. Over 50% mortality affects nesting hens; gobbler deaths from hunting have also been as high as 50% in unregulated areas. Egg and poult mortality is so relentless that hens have evolved to compensate: they lay 10-12 eggs, have sleek, barred coloration mimicking

filtered light and will nest twice if unsuccessful the first time. Landowners have reported broods of only four surviving poults with just half of those living past a month. Wild turkeys also do not live long as adults, usually no more than two or three years. Thus, healthy-looking flocks foraging in our old fields are survivors of a two-year turnover. Despite these odds, according to Roma Lenehan, wild turkeys now nest regularly in the Preserve, benefitting from the hunting restriction but also from winding, brushy edges that define our diverse landscapes. Edge habitat allows turkeys to fade quickly away from danger, back into woodlands where they spend their nights roosting in trees.

Varied edge growth provides a buffet for turkeys, who must eat constantly and therefore eat about everything. They forage through most of the daylight hours. Foods range from seeds and nuts to young birch leaves, grapes, dandelions, sedges, tender pinecones, insects like crickets and beetles, earthworms, grubs and snails. They pull up new grass shoots, snap off buds and grain heads and rake forest floors for ants. Choice favorites include grasshoppers and acorns. In winter, acorns are critically important to these large birds,



July 15, 2022: a wild turkey hen feasts in a sea of Virginia bluebells, Bill's Woods.



April 12, 2022: the magnificent males, lawn of Eagle Heights Apartments close to the border of Big Woods.



providing some of their only nourishment. In non-breeding seasons, turkeys may range across 135 acres, preferring defined edge habitat around open spaces. Favorite foods along borders include beggar's lice and oxalis.

In recent research, biologists have expanded the importance of edge

habitats. Four benefits have emerged, and wild turkeys get them all in the Preserve. They find protection in our brushy, dense edges; important insect protein is also found there, attracted to blooms and select leaves. Edge habitat functions as a staging area for dispersal of hatching insect eggs and for turkey dispersal. The edges in the Preserve are

their jumping-off places. When they go walkabout, they steal out from the borders, one wary step at a time. And last...edge habitats provide young wild creatures with novel experiences. Here turkey poults can learn in safety. Some of those novel experiences are us, human visitors to the Preserve. We eye each other and learn to coexist.

#### BEGINNING BIRDWATCHERS ABOUND

## Audubon Society, UW-Madison's 2021 Guided Birdhiking Series, Funded and Facilitated by a Lakeshore Nature Preserve Student Engagement Grant

*Cole Roecker*

During fall, 2021, the Audubon Society at UW-Madison hosted a guided birdwatching hike series every Saturday at Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Geared toward students who had not previously been birdwatching, our goal was to use birding as a means to encourage students to pay more attention to the birds all around them on campus and to the natural world in which they live. Our hikes took us throughout the Preserve, observing many birds as they migrated southward through Wisconsin, all the while teaching students how to identify avian species through sight and song. One September morning brought the sighting of a yellow-billed cuckoo, while the cooler November Saturdays yielded American coot, bufflehead and canvasback as they journeyed south to warmer waters. To make this educational series possible, we relied on the generous grant provided by UW-Madison Preserve office to purchase a set of 14 binoculars.

Over 150 students attended our hike series through the fall. Due to our limited binoculars and having only two experienced guides to lead each hike, weekly sessions were restricted to 15 attendees. We sent a sign-up sheet out to our email list each Thursday beforehand, with the first sheet filling in less than ten minutes. This was a remarkable amount of interest, as our hikes last year normally attracted less than five students. Our email list grew from 45 students to 262, and our number of regularly engaged members has grown from ten



Students watch a flock of black-capped chickadees and kinglets near Biocore Prairie on November 20, 2021.

to nearly forty. Our group chat often exchanges messages about campus birds, conservation politics and environmental events. Our initial goal to attract more students to birds and conservation was easily met; much of our new membership first joined us on these hikes, and they now engage daily with bird news, campus natural areas and environmental politics. We are excited to see where our newfound growth takes us and which new conservation projects we will undertake in future years.

Our success must be attributed to the support we received throughout the semester. We would like to thank the UW office of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for providing us with this

extremely important grant; we also thank professors Jim Berkelman, Karie Cherwin and Jamie Nack for helping to advertise our hike series during their classes and our advisor, Dr. Anna Pidgeon, for her guidance before and during our hikes. We look forward to hosting many more guided bird walks at Lakeshore Nature Preserve and to teaching more UW students about the wonderful world of birds and the environment. You can learn more about our organization and our work by contacting us at [audubonsocietyuw@gmail.com](mailto:audubonsocietyuw@gmail.com). If you see a group of college students birding in the Preserve, it's probably us – feel free to say "Hello!"

## 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](mailto:preserveFriends@gmail.com)

*President:* Will Vuyk

*Vice President:* Nancy Breden

*Secretary:* Paul Quinlan

*Treasurer:* Steve Sellwood

*Field trips:* Signe Holtz,  
Doris Dubielzig, advisor

*Newsletter:* MJ Morgan, Katie Umhoefer

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Anne Pearce

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*Friends of the Lakeshore  
Nature Preserve* is a 501(c)(3)  
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Please visit our website: [www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com](http://www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com)

## First Preserve Director Gary Brown Retires

*A Contribution from Gary Brown*

As the Preserve's inaugural director starting in 2010 and a long-time supporter of this amazing resource, I look back on my tenure with great pride and sense of accomplishment. In the early 1980s I first visited the Preserve as an undergrad in a required soil science course reviewing the historic soil pits to understand soil horizons and textures. Later I would visit with Professor Evelyn Howell to understand the devastating encroachment of invasive species and how to design for ecological restoration. Little did I know then I would become the outspoken leader for these cherished lands.

My how things have changed in forty years! Today we have a complement of professional staff successfully managing these 300 acres fulltime. We are supported by a robust Friends group and have hundreds of volunteers, faculty, staff, students and avid community

members helping us preserve this outdoor teaching and research laboratory for generations to come.

I'm happy we have a strong Preserve Committee, an ongoing transparent process for annual work plan and operating budget development and strong philanthropic support to supplement state and university funding. We've come a long way over these many years and set the stage for the protection of the Preserve by fully supporting the university's mission of teaching, research and outreach. I also am extremely pleased that we are moving well through the update of the Preserve Master Plan, based on our previously completed Strategic Plan, and beginning our advance plan for the Preserve Outreach Center: a long-discussed home for the overall Lakeshore Nature Preserve program and staff. I look forward to helping as a volunteer and donor representative on this important project. As I leave my role as director, I leave the Preserve in good hands – moving forward, building on our strong foundation and preserving the Preserve.



*The Lakeshore Nature Preserve team will temporarily join the UW-Madison Office of Sustainability. Dr. Missy Nergard, Director of the Office of Sustainability, will provide oversight of the Preserve in an interim capacity. Preserve Assistant Director Laura Wyatt will continue to manage the Preserve's day-to-day operations. If you have any questions on how to work with the Preserve team during this transition, please contact her at [laura.wyatt@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.wyatt@wisc.edu) or 608-265-9275.*