



Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

SPRING 2020

KEYNOTE TALK AT ANNUAL MEETING

Little Fish – Big Impact: 100 Years of Change in the Small-Fish Fauna of Lake Mendota

John Lyons, Curator of Fishes, University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum



About Dr. Lyons: *I am a lifelong fish fanatic, interested in fish research and conservation; sport fishing; snorkeling and diving to observe fish in their natural habitats; keeping fish in aquariums; and cooking and eating fish. I've been fortunate to be able to make my passion into a career. I am the Curator of Fishes at the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum, where I have been associated since the early 1980s. From 1985 until my retirement in 2017, I was a fisheries research scientist and supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I received my MA and PhD degrees in zoology (with a fish emphasis, of course) from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and my BA in biology from Union College, Schenectady, New York.*

Lake Mendota is justifiably famous as a sport fishing destination. Anglers come from throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest to fish for bluegill, yellow perch, white bass, walleye, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and several other species. But most anglers don't fully appreciate that the quality of this fishing is dependent upon a diverse group of smaller and lesser-known fish species living in the shallows along the shoreline. These small fishes have colorful names: blackchin shiner, bluntnose minnow, tadpole madtom, banded killifish, brook silverside, Iowa darter, and logperch. Some are largely sedentary, many cruise in large mid-water schools, while others orient to the water surface, all feeding and spawning in different ways. But these inconspicuous but vitally important fishes have something in common: they serve as prey sustaining many of the iconic sportfish species that draw people to the lake.

Unfortunately, however, the variety of small fishes in Lake Mendota and all the Madison lakes has decreased over the last 50-60 years. Where once perhaps twenty small, near-shore fish

species were present in moderate-to-high numbers, now only about half remain. The causes of their decline are complex and not well understood. They probably include shoreline urbanization, water quality deterioration, and most notably, the invasion and expansion of non-native plant species, especially Eurasian water milfoil. The loss of small-fish diversity reduces the stability and resilience of the entire aquatic food web and impacts the long-term health of the fish community.

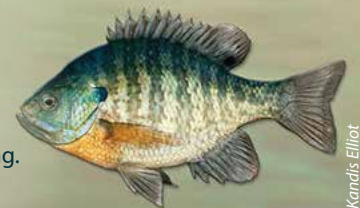
In my talk, I'll describe some of the small near-shore fishes of Lake Mendota, review their habitats, life histories and ecological roles, and discuss how and why some have declined. I'll share photos from my personal collection to introduce you to these species. Last, my talk will examine how these vital species might be restored, focusing on the importance of semi-natural shoreline habitats of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. What might the Friends undertake to promote small-fish species recovery? Come and find out!

19TH ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING

Tuesday, April 7–7:00 p.m.

UW Arboretum

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and socializing. The public is welcome. Please bring a friend.



Kandis Elliot

Spring/summer field trips

Gisela Kurtzbach

April

- 5 Science Expeditions at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve** (Sunday, 2:00–3:30 p.m.). Meet the geology, trees and birds of Picnic Point at the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve's three exploration stations. Explore the dramatic rock wall, identify trees without leaves and view the early birds on University Bay with binoculars and spotting scopes. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Coordinator: Doris Dubielzig (608-239-4196, dbdubielzig@gmail.com).
- 15 Beyond Backyard Birding** (Wednesday, 7:30–9:30 a.m.; Rain/snow date, Friday, April 17). Grow your backyard birding skills with leaders who can bird by ear, and learn to identify those little streaky-brown birds and other early spring migrants. We'll have binoculars for loan and traverse even trails at a leisurely pace. Trip limited to 20 people. Please register with Brenna (608-255-2473, bmarsicck@madisonaudubon.org). Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leaders: Ashley Olah and Kristin Brunk (317-997-2806, kbrunk@wisc.edu).
- 26 Bird and Nature Outing: Woodland Wildflowers** (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). With botanist Susan Will-Wolf, look for spring ephemerals, including wood phlox, violet, bloodroot, and Jacob's ladder in Bill's Woods, the Friends' first project in 2001. Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (215-1649, swwolf@wisc.edu). See center box.

May

- 9 Spring Wildflower Blooms and Research** (Saturday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). The spring ephemerals are prized because of their beauty and their fleeting flowering cycle. Olympia Mathiapanam, 2018 UW graduate, will lead you through the wooded areas of Fruitschi Point to the Biocore Prairie, where her research on first flowering dates produced some surprising results. Meet at the Fruitschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: Olympia Mathiapanam (omathiapanam@wisc.edu).
- 13 Warblers of Fruitschi Point** (Wednesday, 7:30–9:30 a.m.). Join the author of the Preserve's Breeding Bird Study to see warblers and other spring migrants through the foliage of this Important Birding Area. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have

one. Meet at the Fruitschi Point parking lot, 2662 Lake Mendota Drive. Leader: Roma Lenehan (238-5406, rlenehan@charter.net).

- 23 Groundswell Conservancy: Annual Founders' Bird Walk** (Saturday, 8:30–10:30 a.m.). This trip commemorates Groundswell's origin story, how a group of citizens tapped community support to save the 3.4-acre Wally Bauman Woods from development. We'll look for warblers and other neotropical migrants on Picnic Point with birder Marty Evanson. The free public event requires registration. Register at <https://groundswellwisconsin.org/page.asp?page=2020BirdWalk>. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Marty Evanson.
- 24 Bird and Nature Outing: Warbler Walk** (Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Search for our resident warblers with Dane Gallagher. Leader: Dane Gallagher. See center box.

June

- 6 Bluebird Trail** (Saturday, 8:00–9:30 a.m.). Take an easy walk to the Biocore Prairie and tour our Bluebird Trail with monitor Jeff Koziol. Learn about Bluebirds and what monitoring the boxes entails during this busy month of rearing nestlings. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Jeff Koziol (847-331-2430, jeff.koziol@gmail.com).
- 13 Mound Makers on Picnic Point** (Saturday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Prof. Sissel Schroeder's field work has included investigations into the ecology and household archeology of the mound builders. She also studies the history of archeology from 100 years ago when local residents mapped and

4th SUNDAYS BIRD AND NATURE OUTINGS



4th Sunday of the month, 1:30–3:00 p.m.—The Friends co-sponsor bird and nature outings in the Preserve with the Friends of Urban Nature and Madison Audubon Society on the 4th Sunday of the month, 1:30–3:00 p.m. (visit <https://www.friendslakeshorepreserve.com/> for details). Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Contact: Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104, paul_noeldner@hotmail.com).

explored these ancient mounds. Prof. Schroeder will describe what we know of these mounds and the people who made them. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Sissel Schroeder (262-0317, sissel.schroeder@wisc.edu).

17 Lake Mendota Boat Trip
(Wednesday, 9:00–11:30 a.m.; weather date, Friday, June 19). Experience Lake Mendota and the shoreline of the Preserve from aboard LIMNOS2, the UW Center for Limnology's vessel for teaching, research and outreach. Meet at Hasler Limnology Laboratory, one block west of Memorial Union. Group size is limited to 12; register early with leader Prof. John Magnuson (john.magnuson@wisc.edu).

28 Bird and Nature Outing: Birding the Preserve
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). See the many birds that make their homes in the Preserve's varied habitats of lake, marsh, woods and prairie. Leader: Dane Gallagher. See box on previous page.

July

12 Interpreting Nature as Aldo Leopold Did
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). View the Preserve through the eyes of Aldo Leopold with Professor Emeritus Stan Temple. Consider connecting with nature in the ways that Leopold described in his writings and practice. Learn how the Preserve advances restoration with a Leopold-inspired land ethic. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Stan Temple (576-8536, satemple@wisc.edu).

19 Bee Busyness
(Sunday, 9:00–11:00 a.m.). Susan Carpenter, UW-Arboretum native plant gardener and bumble bee expert, will lead us in searching for and identifying bees and other pollinators during their active foraging hours. She will explain

their diversity, behaviors and importance. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Susan Carpenter (886-7504, susan.carpenter@wisc.edu).

26 Bird and Nature Outing: John Magnuson at the Class of 1918 Marsh
(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Walk around the Class of 1918 Marsh with researcher and teacher John Magnuson. This tour will reflect on the past, present and future of the marsh and discuss its nature, importance and challenges. Leader: Prof. John Magnuson (john.magnuson@wisc.edu) See box on previous page.

August

1 The Amazing Soil Beneath Our Feet (Saturday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.). Poet William Blake suggested that we could "see the world in a grain of sand." Visit the historic soil pits in Bill's Woods and on Picnic Point with UW-Madison scientist and educator Dr. Nick Balster, who studies the "communication" between plants and soil in different ecosystems. Meet at the Picnic Point kiosk, across from UW Lot 130 (2003 University Bay Drive). Leader: Nick Balster (263-5719, njbalster@wisc.edu).

8 Bird Banding
(Saturday, 7:00–10:00 a.m.). Join Jackie Sandberg, Wildlife Training Supervisor for the Dane County Humane Society, and her team of banders to learn about bird banding. See how it helps expand our knowledge of bird movement and our efforts towards conservation. Stop by any time during the banding hours. From the Picnic Point entrance, walk up to the Biocore Prairie and follow the signs to the picnic table. Leader: Jackie Sandberg (838-0413, jedmunds@uwalumni.com).

23 Bird and Nature Outing: Natural and Cultural History of Lake Mendota

(Sunday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.).

UW-Whitewater Prof. Marj Rhine has been on sabbatical this year to write her book on the natural and cultural history of Lake Mendota. Learn what Rhine has discovered in her "meanderings" through the history and nature of the Preserve. Leader: Marjorie Rhine (rhinem@uw.edu). See box on previous page.



GARLIC MUSTARD PULL Sunday, May 3, 1–4 p.m.

We'll select the location once we see where weeding is most needed. Watch your email for updates.

SPRING PLANTING

Saturday, May 16
9:00 a.m.–noon

Meet at Frautschi
Point parking lot

Help us plant bushes, wildflowers, grasses, and pollinator plants along a path through the woods. Gloves and tools provided. Enjoy refreshments at close.

Questions? Contact
PreserveFriends@gmail.com.

Project funded by the Friends,
planned with Preserve staff.

BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Nominees to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board

The Friends nominating committee -- Lillian Tong (chair), Gisela Kutzbach, Steve Loheide, and Seth McGee -- recommends the following candidates. The Board has endorsed this recommendation. Other candidates may be nominated by the membership at the annual meeting. All current members of the Friends of the Preserve present at the annual meeting (April 7, 2020) are eligible to vote. Board members are elected for three-year terms; two student board members are elected for one-year terms.

**Nancy Breden**

In 2014, Nancy moved to Spring Harbor to be near her daughters. She enjoys running and walking on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve trails. Her background includes ten years at D&R Greenway Land Trust in New Jersey, five years as operations administrator and trustee liaison for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the past four years in grants administration at a regional team of The Nature Conservancy. Nancy was recommended by Steve Loheide, our outside member of the committee.

**Tom Bryan**

Formerly a student board member, Tom is now a nominee for a three-year term. He is the Program Coordinator and Rooftop Greenhouse Manager for the GreenHouse Learning Community in Leopold Hall. From UW-Madison, he earned a BS in microbiology and a PhD in food systems. He loves to cook, bake, and tinker with the habitat for his red-footed tortoise. He has supported the Friends through field trip leadership.

**Matt Chotlos**

Matt, a Madison native, graduates this spring from UW-Madison with a BS in biology. He hopes to focus on fish ecology in graduate school. While with the Friends, Matt has been very active: he hosted three field trips, manned the Trees Station at our Science Expeditions last April, volunteered in summer water monitoring for the Clean Lakes Alliance, and wrote an article for our newsletter, *Preserve!* We are very pleased to nominate him again.

**Kelly Kearns**

Originally from Indiana, Kelly holds an MS in Restoration Ecology from UW-Madison. She works as the Invasive Plants Program Coordinator with the Natural Heritage Conservation program of the Wisconsin DNR. She is responsible for education and outreach, working with partners and researchers, facilitating early detection, and developing policy revisions. In her free time, she gardens and enjoys traveling with her husband and grown children, exploring natural areas wherever they go.

**Paul Quinlan**

Paul currently serves as secretary on the Friends Board of Directors. A native of New York state, Paul's career in natural areas management has brought him to Madison via Kentucky and Indiana. He currently works for the City of Madison, Parks Division, as the Conservation Resource Supervisor. He volunteers with the Friends by leading field trips, especially sharing his knowledge and love of trees. Paul is also a member of the Friends Projects Committee and the Land Stewardship Committee.

**Steve Sentoff**

A nominee for a second three-year term, Steve brings to the Friends 25 years of experience with prairie habitat restoration in north-eastern Illinois. He now steadily volunteers at the Preserve on the drop-in work days and is also a Preserve Steward, mostly helping with invasive species management. In his first term on the Board, Steve has served as secretary, vice president and president and has been actively involved in Citizen Science projects.

**Will Vuyk**

Will, a UW-Madison sophomore studying biology, has a passion for getting lost, running often amid the wind and waves and bird-song. Will believes the Preserve is the best place to lose himself in Madison. He was a member of the Greenhouse Learning Community and is a current Biocore student. This semester he is in Ecuador with the Ceiba Foundation pursuing his love of nature (and getting lost) in a different hemisphere. When he finds his way back, Will hopes to aid in efforts to understand the ecology of the Preserve and involve others in the process.

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBER

The Friends operates on the talent and dedication of its volunteers. Please help us thank the following member for her contributions.



Sarah Congdon
Publicity and
newsletter layout
(3 years)

Winter Survey
Success

Thank you for the enthusiastic response to our survey! We have received 120 replies with excellent suggestions and striking stories of the Preserve. If you have not returned your written survey yet, we still welcome your ideas. Look for a summary and discussion of results in the August issue.

FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES

2019 Annual Report: All the Ways You Contribute

Steve Sentoff, Friends president

The Friends continue to contribute to the Preserve in many ways. Through monetary donations, volunteering and engagement, you have helped protect the Preserve and influence its direction.

Our largest single commitment for the last few years has been funding the Prairie Partner Interns. In 2019 we spent \$5,705 for five undergraduates from UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point to work ten weeks in the summer. This is a terrific educational opportunity for them and also ensures completion of a significant amount of restoration work. Energetic interns cleared brush, pulled garlic mustard and surveyed tracts of vegetation, among other tasks. The Friends also contributed \$4,000 directly to the Preserve's Stewardship Fund, used for general management needs.

We also sponsor a number of activities in which volunteers can work in the field. The Garlic Mustard Pull and Spring Planting events in Frautschi Point Woods drew dozens of willing workers who made a difference. And throughout the year our Citizen Science teams worked diligently, managing the blue bird nesting boxes and purple martin house and collecting data on water quality along the lake. These efforts amount to several hundred hours of time contributed to the Preserve.

Less tangible, yet vital to our mission of connecting people to the Preserve, is the Friends' outreach work. In 2019, over 600 people attended our field trips, led by knowledgeable and enthusiastic experts who give their time freely. These events covered a full range of topics from flora and fauna, history and geology to ethnobotany and climate change. Our newsletter has generated many favorable comments and is another way that we can keep you informed. The Class of 1918 Marsh and the connections between the Preserve and Lake Mendota received special attention in this year's issues. In addition, the Friends took our message to the broader Madison community through participation in civic events, such as the Nelson Institute's Earth Day conference and the UW South Madison Partnership's Community Fair.

All these connections translate into additional support for the Preserve. And not least, many Friends members contribute funds directly through the UW Foundation; they also volunteer their energy and time through the drop-in work days and Preserve Steward program offered by the staff.

Thus, you should be pleased and proud of our diverse contributions. I want to thank you for what you've done to help strengthen the Preserve in 2019. And for those of you making other direct contributions, we thank you twice!



Summer 2019 Prairie Partner Interns, representing the Friends' commitment to the next generation of conservationists.

2019 Annual financial report

Steve Sellwood, treasurer

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$104,581
Income	\$22,358
Memberships	\$13,235
Donations and memorials	\$7,510
Bank adjustment	\$50
Dividends and interest	\$1,563
Expenses	-\$15,400
Summer interns	-\$5,705
Gifts to Preserve	-\$4,000
Committees, supplies, newsletter	-\$2,203
Postage	-\$1,239
Plantings	-\$574
Annual meeting	-\$139
Special projects	-\$1,540
ENDING BALANCE	\$111,539

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
Mar	8 Sun	Frautschi Point lot
Mar	28 Sat	Picnic Point kiosk
April	18 Sat	Picnic Point kiosk
April	26 Sun	Picnic Point kiosk
May	3 Sun	Garlic Mustard Pull Frautschi Point lot 1–4 p.m.
May	16 Sat	Spring Planting Frautschi Point Lot



Where Have All the Lepidoptera Gone? Vanishing Cecropia Moths

MJ Morgan

Long before the creation of the Preserve, willows planted along the bay drive in the 1890s supported truly remarkable moths whose larvae depended on juicy deciduous leaves. The largest moth in North America, *Hylaphora cecropia* of the silk moth family, once had high, stable populations in the upper Midwest and was a select food of downy and hairy woodpeckers. Today, cecropia are uncommon in the Preserve. Reports of their palm-size cocoons or the enormous, vividly-patterned moths themselves are widely spread across the decades.



Adult cecropia moth

One observant Friends member reported noticing seven cecropia cocoons over the years in sheltered box elder branches, where she left them to mature. Other cocoons could have been hiding as well, especially perhaps in older willows. Yet to what baseline do we compare these numbers? It is only since the late 1960s that entomologists have recognized moths and butterflies as excellent monitors of environmental change. Struggling against soil, air, and water pollution, Lepidoptera are also strongly affected by vegetation loss. In addition, moths are driven from areas blazing with bright street lights and outdoor security lights. And for the beautiful cecropia moth, another lethal factor appeared in 1906: a foreign parasitic fly, *Compsilura concinnata*. Government scientists introduced it to control voracious gypsy moths, but it also began decimating silk moths. The effects of habitat change, especially urbanization, and *Compsilura* on cecropia moths can vividly be seen through memories of people growing up near the Preserve.

In 1958, a young boy living near Shorewood Hills was entranced with cecropia moths. He has kindly shared his memories of a world filled with Lepidoptera, one that we are unlikely ever to witness. Richard Beeman, a retired entomologist from the USDA in Manhattan, Kansas, writes:

“As a kid, I caged a female cecropia in Madison to attract males. I set the alarm for 3 a.m., and when I stepped out onto the back porch to assess the success of the operation, there were dozens, if not hundreds of males flapping all over, competing for access to the treasure in the cage. I also once witnessed an amazing infestation of cecropias at Spring Harbor just west of my old neighborhood. There was a row of willow trees along Lake Mendota literally dripping with tens of thousands of cecropia caterpillars, a sight never to be forgotten... and if you have never smelled a freshly-emerged cecropia, you have missed the most fragrant scent. There is no more aromatic and intoxicating perfume than that of a freshly emerged cecropia moth.”

The magic of abundant cecropia moths is unlikely to be ours again. A long-time Friends member, Paul Williams, who has walked the Preserve trails almost daily for over sixty years, corroborates this sad reality. Over time, he has released as many as 1,500 moth larvae from cecropia and other giant moths into good host trees such as willow and red osier dogwood. He has never found a surviving larvae. “Parasitized or eaten by diving woodpeckers,” he says. So rare is a surviving cecropia pupa in a cocoon that if you would come across one in the Preserve, please make a note of its location and do not touch or remove it. And if you are lucky enough to see a cecropia itself flitting at dusk, its startling wing-pattern suggesting tribal art in the dying light, remember to just stand still and marvel.



Cecropia cocoon and pupa



Cecropia caterpillar

Thank you to Dick Beeman, retired USDA entomologist, Manhattan, Kansas, and to Paul Williams, Professor Emeritus, UW, Department of Plant Pathology.

APRIL 7-8

Day of the Badger – Support the Preserve

On April 7-8, UW-Madison and Badgers around the world will be celebrating the Day of the Badger. Be sure to visit <https://www.dayofthebadger.org/> on April 7 starting at 10:12 a.m. through April 8 ending at 5:00 p.m. to learn how you can support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

All gifts, up to a total of \$10,000 will be matched by a generous donor! While the UW provides staff and basic services, gift funds are critical and needed to facilitate land restoration and volunteer programs.



Buckthorn Warrior: Kennedy Gilchrist in the Preserve

Friends members volunteer for diverse personal reasons. Kennedy Gilchrist, retired UW surgical pathologist, recently described his twenty-year connection with the Preserve, first as a volunteer and lately, as a steward. He began taking out buckthorn and honeysuckle for exercise in 2000, just as the Friends were formed. Although still working, he tackled his first invasive plant, a mature honeysuckle. Kennedy recalls that these bushes were often thirty years old and massive, while some buckthorn had shot up to thirty feet! They were the first wave of rapidly-spreading non-natives choking out light and plant diversity. The challenge of these deep-rooted invasives drew Kennedy. And the bigger, the better.

Using a Finnish hand saw and a spade, he could wrestle with a single tree for over two hours. For the safety of others, he preferred working alone in parts of the Preserve not usually visited. In his unmistakable warrior outfit -- striped overalls, Vietnamese pith helmet, and yellow raincoat --

he could be glimpsed in battle with a towering buckthorn. The helmet often protected him from falling grapevines. Kennedy was especially effective during the 2011 Heritage Oak Project when he worked with a team. Over many hours of labor, they brought space and sunlight to the magnificent Heritage Oak found opposite Bill's Woods in the Preserve.

Eventually, Kennedy moved on to common burdock growing in disturbed areas along trails. The burdock taproot is both enormous and resistant to herbicides. Hooked seeds attach to anything, spreading burdock over extensive areas, so it is critical to take out the entire plant. Luckily for the Preserve, Kennedy became a burdock as well as a buckthorn warrior. He also enjoyed working with students, teaching them about UW ownership of the Preserve and their custodial roles. And then in 2015, he became a Preserve Steward. Throughout his service to the Friends, including a year as president, he has been an indefatigable volunteer at social and educational events.



"I wanted to make a change, pave the way for something better. Volunteering provides a special view on life. You're supporting something that another person is passionate about."

As he grew up in Evanston, Kennedy's mother introduced him to nature books through the Audubon Rare Book Society, yet he learned about the threat of invasive species through his travels abroad. Rooting out those species in the Preserve has been Kennedy's gift to us.

Thank you, Kennedy.

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.

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: Steve Sentoff

Vice President: Seth McGee

Secretary: Paul Quinlan

Treasurer: Steve Sellwood

Field trips: Doris Dubielzig, Paul Noeldner

Newsletter: Sarah Congdon, MJ Morgan

Friends Volunteer Coordinator:

Steve Sentoff

Preserve! Vol. 19, no. 2,
Spring 2020

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

Please visit our website: www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.com

Before and After at Eagle Heights Woods: Funding Healthy Change

Gisela Kutzbach and MJ Morgan

In winter 2014-15, the Friends board of directors took on a challenge: sponsoring the Preserve management staff's ambitious restoration project for Eagle Heights Woods. With a year-long fundraiser, the Friends ultimately provided \$145,000 in support of a five-year management plan for this westernmost jewel of the Preserve. In 2020, Friends members are continuing their steadfast support with a gift of \$15,000 for rejuvenating the northern zone, where steep cliffs plunge to the lake. The Friends' gift will help promote a diverse oak woodland community. Adam Gundlach, Field Project Coordinator for the UW Lakeshore Preserve, explains that work will progress from removing brush, weed and invasive species to managing prescribed burns; from directing vegetation surveys

to seeding with native plants; and from controlling re-sprouting to maintaining trails. The work goes on.

Early settlers named Eagle Heights Woods for scores of bald eagles. From this highest point in the Preserve, hunting eagles surveyed cold, fish-filled waters below. Bald eagles were taken off the federal endangered list in 1997, making a strong comeback in southern Wisconsin. Today, the heights are still attracting eagles and play an important part in their survival. Friends members have reported seeing nine eagles in a single tree and as many as ten along the trail down to Picnic Point! Thanks to the partnership of the Lakeshore Friends and the UW Preserve staff, Eagle Heights Woods is again becoming a thriving habitat. Come and see for yourself this spring.



Before/after comparison of the north slope. Photo by Adam Gundlach, taken from one of the rock outcrops along the upper edge of the woods. The cliffs are now visible from the trail below and the road, lake shore, and water can be seen from above.