



PRESERVE!

Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Fall 2013

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Coyotes in the Preserve

Research aims to minimize human/coyote conflict

By Lucas Rapisarda

During the course of the 2013 spring semester, I was given the opportunity to research the habitat preference and activity patterns of coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. My purpose was to understand how coyotes have adapted to urban settings and to understand how and why they are flourishing in this environment, as a step towards minimizing coyote/human conflict.

I used two separate methods for my research project. First, to estimate presence/absence of coyotes, I set up walking transects throughout the Preserve and counted coyote scat as a sign of presence. Using these data I calculated the capture frequencies of coyotes in each separate zone to determine where they were most commonly found. Second, I set up camera traps which recorded the time of each picture to determine when coyotes were most active.

While walking the transects, I looked for both coyote tracks and coyote scat. For those who are curious, coyote scat can be identified by the presence of hair or native seeds from a coyote's last meal and a rope-like taper at the end of the scat. Although there is a common misconception that coyotes are dumpster divers, this is not the case. A study on urban coyote diets performed in Chicago showed that human waste constituted a mere 2% of a coyote's diet, with small rodents making up their primary diet. Coyote tracks can be differentiated from domestic dog tracks by their oval shape and only the two middle claws present.

My data show that coyotes were most abundant in the Bill's Woods area of the

Preserve. This observation is supported by the fact that the Bill's Woods zone has the least number of man-made paths and is therefore the most ideal habitat for a coyote population attempting to avoid human contact, as previous research has suggested. This was further supported by the fact that the least amount of coyote activity was recorded in the Eagle Heights Community Gardens area of the Preserve, which is regularly occupied by humans and provides little cover for coyotes.

The photographic data led me to conclude that coyotes are most active between 12:00 and 16:00 hours, with most activity occurring during daylight hours. I attribute this, however, to the fact that coyotes are relatively difficult to capture on trail cameras. Previous studies conducted by UW-Madison, Environmental Studies 651 students are more reliable and found peak coyote activity occurring at dawn and dusk, as previous research has suggested. Based on my results, the coyotes located within the Preserve are very mobile and tracks were found crossing both University Bay Drive and Lake Mendota Drive.

This project was a wonderful opportunity not only for me to gain a better understanding of coyotes, but also for me to grow as a researcher. This was

my first field research project and I learned a lot about what *not* to do in the future. I had a great time learning about previous studies conducted on urban coyote populations and am eager to continue my work in the Preserve, possibly as a part of my senior thesis. For me, as for many other students, the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is an outstanding resource for hands-on education and field research.

Author Lucas Rapisarda is a junior at UW-Madison majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Sociology, with a certificate in Environmental Studies. He hopes to join either the Peace Corps or Teach for America when he graduates. His project was facilitated by Dr. David Drake, UW Extension Wildlife Specialist.

Photo Lucas Rapisarda



Coyote captured by a camera trap in the Preserve.

Fall Field Trips



Photo Michelle Louis

Fall Birding in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

September 14 (Saturday) 8:00 – 10:00 AM

Join us for a hike in the woods, prairies, and gardens as we look for fall migrants. We will help identify warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and other birds we may see. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet near the bus shelter at the Class of 1918 Marsh parking lot. Leaders: Eric Wood and Roma Lenehan (238-5406)

Bird Banding at Biocore Prairie

September 14 (Saturday) 8:00 AM – 12 Noon

Come by anytime during hours above and learn about bird banding (hands-on, if you choose). See birds up close and learn about the contributions of banding to our knowledge of birds and our efforts at conservation. Co-sponsored by Madison Audubon Society. Park at Frautschi Point or Picnic Point parking lot and walk up to the Biocore Prairie above Eagle Heights Gardens. Leader: Mara McDonald (274-2534)

Restoration Ecology in the Preserve

September 15 (Sunday) 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Get a behind-the-scene look at restoration efforts through the past years, how they have progressed, and future possibilities. Meet at Picnic Point parking lot. Leader: Adam Gundlach (220-3482).

Eagle Heights Gardens

September 29 (Sunday) 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Come join us to see what is happening in the gardens, including the recently planted fruit trees and vegetables growing in late summer and early fall. Meet at highest ground where Eagle Heights Gardens borders the Biocore Prairie. Leader: Will Waller (231-6260).

Fall Birding in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

October 13 (Sunday) 8:00 – 10:00 AM

Join us for a hike in the woods, prairies, and gardens as we look for fall migrants. We will help identify warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and other birds we may see. Co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society. Meet near the bus shelter at the Class of 1918 Marsh parking lot. Leaders: Eric Wood and Roma Lenehan (238-5406)

A Mycological Stroll in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

October 13 (Sunday) 1:00 – 3:00 PM

We will look for examples of fungi that are pathogens, ones that play a role in recycling the woods, and fungi that form mutually beneficial partnerships with other plants. Meet at Picnic Point parking lot. Leader Jessie Glaeser (231-9215).

Geology of Picnic Point

October 27 (Sunday) 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Join us in reading the landscape with special attention to outcroppings and current geological processes. Meet at Picnic Point parking lot. Leader: Bill Barker (262-0558).

For directions, or general questions/comments about field trips, please call Paul Borowsky (886-6777).

News Briefs

Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Trail in Memory of Stanley Dodson is up and running. This permanent audio trail, in memory of Stanley Dodson, was made possible by contributions to, and efforts of, the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve*. Ginny Dodson greatly appreciates what the *Friends* has done in memory of her spouse. She wrote two of the 17 audio messages – one on Red-winged Blackbirds and another on Aquatic Insects. You can access the audios with a cell phone from any of four signs around the marsh. Each sign has a telephone number and topics to choose. You can download a pocket guide from the webpage of the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* (www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.uwalumni.com). With the pocket guide in hand you can select and listen to any of the individual audios from any location around the marsh, or from your home or classroom. The 1.5-minute audios are intended for a general audience. Some include the sounds of the birds and frogs. It's like walking a nature trail with a mentor at your side. Come to the marsh and enjoy.

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board of Directors is working to revitalize the *Friends* mission statement, goals, and strategies to align with its evolving role in the Preserve. They expect to approve a new mission statement and objectives this fall.

Willow Creek is a 500-meter urban stream that runs from Campus Drive to Lake Mendota, provides aquatic habitat for a host of wildlife, and increases the inherent biodiversity of the Preserve. While many students smile as they pass by the stream on their way through the Preserve, few know the name of this beautiful little creek. Even fewer know its origin or that much of the once winding stream is now buried beneath concrete and straightened to accommodate the needs of a growing human populace.

Inspiring students to take responsibility for the protection of this urban stream- an integral part of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the ecological dynamics of Lake Mendota- is the goal of the Willow Creek Community Project. Olivia Sanderfoot, an undergraduate researcher working with Professor Emily Stanley of the UW-Madison Center for Limnology and current *Friends* student board member, is working to develop student ownership and public interest in the welfare of Willow Creek. Sanderfoot is working in collabora-

Volunteer in the Preserve:

The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* support the Preserve in so many ways. One way is by joining other volunteers at drop-in volunteer workparties. Activities vary depending on the season and current management needs. Bring your own drinking water, dress to work outdoors, and prepare to meet new people and have fun while getting a little dirty! Youth and groups are ok with advance notice. For more information please contact Bryn Sriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist, bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu, 220-5560.

August

Sun. Aug. 25, 9AM-Noon, Frautschi Point lot

September

Sun. Sept. 15, 9AM-Noon, Frautschi Point lot
Sat. Sept. 21, 9AM-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129
Sun. Sept. 29, 9AM-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129

October

Sat. Oct. 12, 9AM-Noon, Muir Knoll off Observatory Drive
Sun. Oct. 27, 9AM-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129

November

Sat. Nov. 9, 9AM-Noon, Picnic Point lot 129
Sun. Nov. 24, 9AM-Noon, Frautschi Point lot

December

Sat. Dec. 7, 1-3PM, Picnic Point lot 129
Sat. Dec. 14, 1-3PM, Frautschi Point lot

Note: Work parties are cancelled in case of severe weather (snowstorms, thunderstorms, temperatures lower than 10 degrees F or above 100 degrees F) or if the ground is too muddy or snowy for work.

tion with the Nelson Institute, the Office of Sustainability, Biocore, and the *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* to engage students in caring for, monitoring, and protecting Willow Creek. The project will bring together people from many different disciplines, all interested in uniting to create a cleaner Earth.

The Willow Creek project will hopefully lead to other community building projects within the within the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Follow the progress of the project in upcoming issues and see our website for additional information (www.friendslakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com).

Connecting through Outreach

Friends events bring smiles and hands-on learning to the community

by Gisela Kutzbach

Photos by John Magnuson and Gisela Kutzbach



Ginny Dodson listens to one of the 17 audio messages on the Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh (above). Participants enjoy the opening of the Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013 (left). Observers on the viewing platform in the marsh were heralded by a group of Canada Geese lifting off and a pair of Sandhill Cranes as they passed in review (top left).



A planting event honoring the memory of Harriet Riley drew many members of the community (right). Riley family members Elinor Riley, Ron Towle, and Brian Riley pause next to a photo of Harriet (above).



Friends member Sue Denholm lends a hand at Friends exhibit during the Eagle Heights Community Gardens Seed Fair.

Planting beans in toilet paper rolls at the *Friends* exhibit during the Eagle Heights Community Gardens Seed Fair was a new experience for this little boy and his mom.



UW Science Expedition weekend in April included a family field trip to Picnic Point sponsored by the *Friends*.



The little boy was curious. Squirming earth worms, soil, a pile of empty toilet rolls. “What’s that for?” he asked, pointing to a toilet roll in the middle of the *Friends* exhibit at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens Seed Fair. “For planting seeds,” replied *Friends* member Sue Denholm. The boy pressed a toilet roll into the shape of a pot and filled it with dirt. Then he pointed to the seed packets in his mother’s hand. She hesitated, then smiled, opening a sealed envelope. The boy removed one bean seed, shoved it deep into the soil with his thumb, took the water bottle, and wet it down. He looked up, eyes sparkling. A seed was planted.

The boy and his mother were one of over two hundred families who attended the Eagle Heights Community Gardens Seed Fair this spring. Many had never kept a garden before. The Gardens, located in the heart of the Preserve, demonstrate to children and parents that nature produces the food we eat. In the Gardens they learn about sustainable methods of food production, and also to be mindful of the natural areas of woods and prairies that surround the Gardens.

Together with Preserve staff, the *Friends* also exhibited at the Earth Day celebration of the Eagle Heights community. There we focused on the

food web. Exploring food chains in the Preserve, children discovered the beneficial role of a coyote observed in Bill’s Woods: a millipede eats a plant, a vole eats a millipede, and a coyote eats the vole, all part of a delicate ecosystem.

During the April Science Expedition weekend at the UW, the *Friends* reached out to the community through a family field trip. Over 50 people, including many children, came to Picnic Point to discover evidence of geological and human impact in this area and to learn how human well-being depends on a healthy, diverse environment.

Later in May, the *Friends* held two special events. On a crisp spring morning we gathered to plant native flowers on Frautschi Point to honor the memory of Harriet Riley, taking time to enjoy light refreshments. It was especially meaningful that some of Harriet’s family joined us. On Memorial Day, the *Friends* celebrated the inauguration of the Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Tour, in memory of Stanley Dodson. Many of Prof. Dodson’s family and co-workers came to enjoy the new trail, cellphones in hand. It was a special day as the fog drifted in and around the marsh while everyone enjoyed a tasty picnic provided by *Friends* members. Please

stop by to visit the new trail the next time you’re in the Preserve. See page 3 and our website for cellphone access and further information on this unique trail.

Furthering our outreach to the community, two new student Board members are launching efforts to help make the Preserve a definitive experience during an undergrad’s college years. Through partnering with student organizations, university groups, and the *Friends* and Preserve staff, they will involve undergrads in hands-on learning activities, volunteering, and group experiences. They will add visibility to the Preserve through media channels and promote training of student Preserve guides.

In his Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold wrote “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” The Preserve provides a vibrant, healthy, close-to-home, natural world for developing and extending land values for members of our community. The *Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve* is eager to connect the community – children and families, neighbors, and UW students - to this natural land, so they will enjoy and love it, learn about it, and treasure it as a place to sustain for generations to come.

Thanks to Our Many Volunteers and Donors

Together we care for the Preserve.

Major Donors

Major Donors contributed more than \$200 since July 2012.

Steve and Susan Carpenter
Zelda Davis
Diane and Robert Dempsey
Susan Denholm
Heidi Wilde and Kennedy Gilchrist
Nancy and Jack D. Heiden
Gisela and John Kutzbach
Roma Lenehan
Peter and Mary K. McCanna
Dick McCoy
Jean and Walter Meanwell
Diana Webb Trust, Madison Community Foundation
Paul Williams
Pat Powers and Tom Wolfe

Heritage Oak Project

Constance F. Threinen

In Memory of Harriet Riley

Lisa Baker
John Blahnik
Glenda Denniston
Art and Mary Ann Garfield
Else Ham
Mary, Jack, Patricia, and John Hill
John and Karen Icke
John and Gisela Kutzbach
Roma Lenehan
Patricia and Peter Lipton
John and Norma Magnuson
Jean and Walter Meanwell
John Montgomery
Eugene and Carol Pulvermacher
John, Grace, and Joan Raducha
Karen and Thomas Ragatz
Lorraine Ranney
Ron Towle and Elinor Riley
John Crowley and Erin Riley
Barbara Sandholm
Marcia Schmidt
Margaret Sommers
Susan and Thomas Stanley
Mary and David Staten
Elwyn and Evelyn Weible

In Memory of Nancy Westman

Kathie and Tom Brock

In Honor of Bill Cronon

John and Gisela Kutzbach

Plants and Seeds

Kathie and Tom Brock
Glenda Denniston

Gifts

David Liebl
Indian Hills Garden Club
Shorewood Hills Garden Club

New Members

Patrons

Susan Paskewitz and Bill Barker
John and Georgia Greist
Tom and Eileen Sutula
Janine Veto

Steward

Josie Cyffka
Betty Evanson
Mary Pat and Michael Feifarek
Joan and George Hall

Household

Thomas Nash and Corrina Gries
Kim Krouth and Ben Feifarek
John Wolf and Susan Will-Wolf

Individual

Amanda Budyak
Matt Feifarek
Eric Rossborough
Rose Sage

Student

Tal Levanony
Eric Obschering
Danna Olsen
Olivia Sanderfoot

Field Volunteers

Kathy Anderson
Bill Barker
Patricia Becker
Marvin Beatty
Paul Borowsky
Ann Burgess
Susan Denholm
Glenda Denniston
Julie DeWitt
Dick Dwelle
Kathi Dwelle
Martha Frey
Sue Gardner
Kennedy Gilchrist
Galen Hasler

Jan Hornback
Noriko Jackson
Gisela Kutzbach
Roma Lenehan
Tal Levanony
Michelle Louis
John Magnuson
Jean Meanwell
Elizabeth Middleton
Lisa Munro
Karen Nakasone
Biss Nitschke
John Pfender
Brian Riley
Elinor Riley
Marcia Schmidt
Shirley Scriver
Susan Slapnick
Jan Smart
Glenn Teschendorf
Ron Towle
Sam VanVolkenburgh
Louisa Waller
Will Waller

Organizational Volunteers

Patricia Becker
Paul Borowsky
Amanda Budyak
Susan Carpenter
Bill Cronon
Diane Dempsey
Susan Denholm
Glenda Denniston
Ginny Dodson
Amy Jo Dusick
Kennedy Gilchrist
Rob Haggart
Brent Haglund
Galen Hasler
Adam Hinterthur
Evelyn Howell
Brenda Jones
Gisela Kutzbach
Roma Lenehan
David Liebl
Jeff Lorch
Michelle Louis
John Magnuson
Norma Magnuson
David Mickelson
Bill Muehl
Eric Obschering
Olivia Sanderfoot
Marcia Schmidt
Susan Slapnick

Will Waller
Paul Williams

Field Trip Leaders

Bill Barker
Ted Bier
Cathie Bruner
Paul Borowski
Susan Carpenter
Quentin Carpenter
Susan Denholm
Glenda Denniston
Dan Doeppers
David Eagan
Marty Evanson
Peter Fissel
Allen Holzhueter
Jim Lattis
Steve Laubach
Roma Lenehan
John Magnuson
Mara McDonald
Edgar Spalding
Will Waller
Eric Wood

1,834 hours were donated by the Friends in 2012. That is about half of the total 3,791 hours volunteered in the Preserve.

Wow!

Glenda Denniston 576 hours
Roma Lenehan 659 hours
Kennedy Gilchrist 229 hours

Special thanks to Bryn Scriver of the UW Preserve staff who coordinates most volunteer events in the Preserve and works closely with the Friends, and to Roma Lenehan for leading Garlic Mustard Pull parties.

Friends Annual Meeting

By Patricia Becker

Gerudon meruloides, *Polyporos squamosus*, *Laetiporus cincinnatus*—you'll find them all in the Preserve. At the April 2nd *Friends* Annual Meeting, mycologist Jessie Glaeser, Research Forest Pathologist, in a talk prepared jointly with Karen Nakasone, Botanist, both with the USDA Forest Service, introduced us to these and a host of other native fungi and described their intricate contributions to the ecology of the Preserve.

Out-going President John Magnuson's Annual Report presented an overview of current *Friends* projects, all carried out by volunteers from among our more than 300 members. He explained the interlocking roles of 'the triad'—the University Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee, staff of UW Facilities Planning and Management (FPM), and the *Friends*. John reported that about 75% of the annual budget of \$21,000 is spent directly on activities in the Preserve, including support of summer interns, and about 25% on education, field trips, the annual meeting, and the *Preserve!* newsletter.

Bill Barker, retiring Chair of the Preserve Committee, presented a brief talk, "Falling in Love on the Shoulders of Giants," noting the contributions of those who made the creation of the Preserve possible, and Cathie Bruner, FPM Staff Field Manager, referring to 'the triad', spoke of how "We Are All Part of the Preserve."

The slate of board members presented by incoming President Gisela Kutzbach and approved unanimously included four current members (Sue Denholm, Brent Haglund, Michelle Louis, and Will Waller) starting new 3-year terms, and one new member, Amanda Budyak. Two new student members elected for 1-year terms, Olivia Sanderfoot and Eric Obscherning, will share a vote. Continuing officers are Dave Mickelson, Secretary, and Marcia Schmidt, Treasurer. Will Waller is our new Vice-President.

PRESERVE! Vol. 12, #3, Fall 2013
Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 55056
Madison, WI 53705

Please visit the *Friends* website:
www.friendslakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com

Email: preserveFriends@gmail.com

Executive Committee

President: Gisela Kutzbach 608-238-0420

Vice President: Will Waller

Secretary: David Mickelson

Treasurer: Marcia Schmidt

Volunteer Coordinator

Galen Hasler 608-206-5218

galenhasler@gmail.com

Newsletter

Patricia Becker and Michelle Louis

We Appreciate Your Input

Ideas and announcements for our newsletter and website are welcome.

To request space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material before Nov. 1. Article submission deadline is November 25.

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

I want to make a difference by joining or making an additional gift to the

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I'm interested in volunteering. Please send me information by email.

I'd like to go paperless & receive my newsletter by email.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Student _____ \$10

Individual _____ \$20

Household _____ \$35

Steward _____ \$50

Patron _____ \$100

Other \$ _____

ADDITIONAL GIFT

(If you are already a member—does not include membership.)

Woodland _____ \$500

Savannah _____ \$250

Wetland _____ \$100

Prairie _____ \$50

Other \$ _____

Please mail this completed form and your check payable to:

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 55056

Madison, WI 53705

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

Friends OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

P.O. Box 55056

Madison, WI 53705

*If you'd like to go
paperless & receive
your Preserve!
newsletter by email,
please contact us at:*

preserveFriends
@gmail.com

www.FriendsLakeshorePreserve.uwalumni.com

"Willow Creek" photo by Olivia Sanderfoot

Fall 2013 Calendar

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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Please see pages 2 & 3 for details and meeting places for volunteering and field trips.

August

Volunteer- Sun. Aug. 25, 9AM-Noon

September

Field trip-Fall Birding, Sat. Sept.14, 8:00-10:00 AM

Field trip-Bird Banding, Sat. Sept.14, 8:00 AM-12 Noon

Volunteer- Sun. Sept.15, 9AM-Noon

Field trip-Restoration Ecology, Sun. Sept.15, 1:00-3:00PM

Volunteer- Sat. Sept. 21, 9AM-Noon

Volunteer- Sun. Sept. 29, 9AM-Noon

Field trip-Eagle Heights Gardens, Sun. Sept.29, 2:00- 3:30PM

October

Volunteer- Sat. Oct.12, 9AM-Noon

Field trip-Fall Birding, Sun. Oct. 13, 8:00-10:00 AM

Field trip-A Mycological Stroll, Sun. Oct. 13, 1:00-3:00 PM

Volunteer- Sun. Oct. 27, 9AM-Noon

Field trip-Geology of Picnic Point, Sun. Oct. 27, 1:00-3:00 PM

November

Volunteer- Sat. Nov. 9, 9AM-Noon

Volunteer- Sun. Nov. 24, 9AM-Noon

December

Volunteer- Sat. Dec. 7, 1-3PM

Volunteer- Sat. Dec.14, 1-3PM

Where in the Preserve is Willow Creek & what's going on there? *See page 3*

Want to learn to identify fungi in the Preserve with an expert? *See page 2*

Curious about coyote activity in the Preserve? *See page 1*