



Preserve!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

SPRING 2026

SEE YOU SOON!

Invitation to the Annual Meeting

Tom Zinnen, President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to invite you to attend and participate in the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (FLNP) on Tuesday, April 14, starting at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Meeting House, 900 University Bay Drive. Please note meeting location.

Speakers include Brad Herrick, Director of the Preserve, and keynote speaker Therese Hanson, lead architect for the Frautschi Center.

At the January meeting, the FLNP board approved a gift of \$75,000 to the UW Foundation in support of the Frautschi Center. We are looking forward to

learning from Brad and Therese the latest about the design, timeline, and features of the Center that will help Friends and all visitors connect with the lands, waters, wildlife and histories of the Preserve.

The members participating at the meeting will also have the opportunity to elect at least five new directors. The 2026 board will then elect the four executive officers of the board at their first meeting in May.

In our role of providing an independent voice in support of the Preserve, we note both the resignation of Chancellor Mnookin effective soon after graduation this spring, and the appointment

of Eric Wilcots--a seasoned scientific outreach as well as a professor of astronomy and the dean of Letters & Science--as interim chancellor. We note that the position of Provost (the COO of the university) is also open at this time. These positions have great influence on the future direction of the university, including the future of the nearly 1/3 of the campus acreage comprised by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

As Friends we will be coming together at a historic venue, at a historic moment, and I eagerly look forward to talking with you about our future at our annual meeting on April 14. Your engagement is important.



Frautschi Center

TKWA



24TH ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Unitarian Meeting House

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



ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER THERESE HANSON

Therese Hanson is a project architect who brings a poetic sensitivity to place—crafting vibrant, human-centered environments that breathe in rhythm with their surrounding ecosystems. Her portfolio spans some of Wisconsin’s most meaningful work, from the Bayview Redevelopment in Madison to the revival of Milwaukee’s beloved Oriental Theatre and transformative visioning for the Milwaukee Downtown Plan Update 2040.

Celebrated with honors such as the Mayor’s Design Award and BizTimes Notable Women in Construction and Design, Therese blends technical rigor with deep empathy. A trusted partner to nonprofits and communities, she leads projects of every scale with collaboration, optimism, and humility.



She also contributes more than a decade of leadership to Women In Design Milwaukee, championing a more equitable and inclusive design profession.

President's Letter

Tom Zinnen, President

Dear Friends,

On February 13 the Preserve's Facebook page featured a sunset photo of the shoreline, the winter gloaming glowing behind Eagle Heights, the arm of Picnic Point wrapping around the field of ice covering University Bay. In this picture, a viewer sees no buildings, trails, or roads, just a sole human standing out on the lake. "Ice is civilization," Paul Theroux wrote in 'The Mosquito Coast'. True enough, if what you mean is artificial ice, and unless you're the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Once again, the Preserve is an exception to the ordinary.

Photos from other angles and other ages confirm what has long been true: the Preserve, home to people for ten millennia or more, is host to trails, roads and buildings. And I'm guessing that for hundreds of generations it has been a point of special sunrises, extraordinary sunsets, and astounding views of the night sky.

As the climate has changed, as the lake levels have risen and fallen, as the biomes have shifted, so too the lay of the land has morphed. In the past 200 years late-arriving humans have built homes of lumber, stone and glass, have tilled the soil and planted orchards, have planted trees and re-planted prairies, have erected boathouses for skiffs and even for seaplanes.

The Preserve, like many spaces of reflection and solace, is a place not only of place of being, but also of becoming. Here, we remember the past, and through research in archives and on the land, we try to reconstruct the histories of the Preserve, even as we savor the place as it is today.

As Friends, we also help envision its future—imagining what it could be and debating what it should be. And then comes the enduring, endearing work of helping make the vision come true.

– Tom

2025 Annual Financial Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$121,888
Income	\$18,081
Memberships, Donations & Gifts	\$15,732
Dividends and interest	\$2,349
Expenses	-\$ 19,333
Gifts to UW Preserve	-\$9,578
Newsletter	-\$2,353
Annual Meeting	-\$1,455
Strategic Planning	-\$3,557
Other Expenses <i>(postage, website hosting, insurance, membership management software)</i>	-\$2,390
ENDING BALANCE	\$120,636

A correction to fall issue: Apologies to Jane and Steve Holtzman for not including them within the Woodland Friends member/donor level of \$250 and above.



BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Nominees to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Board

The Friends nominating committee chaired by, past President Doris Dubielzig, recommend the following candidates which have been endorsed by the board. Additional candidates may be nominated at the annual meeting. Members present on April 14 are eligible to vote. Board members are elected for three-year terms; student board members are elected for one-year terms.

Our thanks and appreciation to out-going board members Taylor Stofflet, Don Wylie and Matt Chotlos.



MADAILEIN AALTO

Madailein is an undergraduate sophomore at UW–Madison, majoring in Agricultural and Applied Economics. She is inter-

ested in environmental economics and natural resource management as possible career paths, but still has a lot to learn here in Madison. Born and raised on the East coast in Boston, Massachusetts, she loves the water and immediately took to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve when she arrived on campus. Maddie works in the school bakery and is also a member of ERBN: Ethical and Responsible Business Network, a student club on campus. During her summers at home, she is a day camp counselor in Boston, spending her days outdoors and canoeing on the Charles River. She welcomes the opportunity to take her experiences like this, connections, and aspirations to help the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve further its mission of protecting the preserve and its ecosystems for all to enjoy.



SARAH LUNDQUIST

Sarah Lundquist was raised just across the river in Northeast Iowa and has been a resident

of Madison for nearly 15 years. She attended UW-Madison for graduate studies in Linguistics with a focus in Indigenous language research, and moved to her current role as an academic staff member with UW-Madison's First Nations Cultural Landscape Tour program in 2023. In this position, she works with an incredible team of faculty and student tour providers to create place-based educational experiences and support relationship building across campus. Much of the tour programming takes place in and along the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, a place with layered histories and enduring connections

between land and community. Sarah deeply appreciates the Preserve for its rich natural and cultural significance, as well as for the opportunities that it provides the campus and broader communities to learn, reflect, grow, and connect. She is thrilled to join such passionate team of nature lovers in supporting the Preserve!



KATHY OKER

Kathy Oker recognizes the necessity of access to the natural world for all humans. Access allows

folks to cultivate a positive relationship with the Earth resulting in more humans working for climate justice, healthy ecosystems, and a world worthy of future generations. A teacher at Wingra School, Kathy collaborates with colleagues to design meaningful integrated thematic units to equip young learners to become critical, engaged citizens in our democracy. Beyond the classroom, Kathy has partnered with area educators to design and host yearly conferences (Watersheds and Outdoor Learning) for teacher education. Recognizing that outdoor spaces tend to be white spaces, Kathy advocates for schools to provide educational opportunities to help every child feel entitled to and responsible for the land we occupy. Possibilities for this seem immeasurable with the future construction of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve's educational center. Kathy is eager to be a part of it all.



MARJORIE RHINE

Marjorie Rhine grew up in Tacoma, Washington, developing a passion for the natural world and its

patterns and processes. She teaches English at UW-Madison and enjoys hiking, birding and photography. Since becoming a Wisconsin Master

Naturalist (2016), she has led fieldtrips in the Preserve and for the Madison Urban Nature Program, focusing on "Insect Superpowers." She volunteers to help restore prairie and oak savanna habitats. Currently working on a writing project that circles around Lake Mendota, she regularly invites students to explore Muir Woods to capture and share observations. She marvels at all that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve embodies, from the tiny toads in June to the brilliant white wings of tundra swans in December. She looks forward to helping design or develop new educational opportunities and other experiences for visitors to the Preserve and helping the Preserve and Friends group flourish.



LAURA WYATT

Laura retired in October 2024 after a nearly 50-year career of working with natural resource land

management and nurturing people-plant connections. Growing up near Morton Arboretum in the suburbs of Chicago, she knew very early that she wanted to be engaged with the plant world. Her education at Purdue University (BS) and UW-Madison (MS) launched her life adventure which has taken her to Chicago Botanic Garden, University of IL Extension, Klehm Arboretum-Rockford, IL, Wisconsin DNR forestry and finally UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve where she retired after serving in a variety of roles. She is especially interested in everything regarding "woody plants" and is a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture. Laura enjoys retirement with her husband Dan, Border Collie Boe, and especially visiting their daughter in Seattle and son in Washington DC.



People, Projects, and Partnerships: CELEBRATING 2025 AND LOOKING TOWARD 2026 AT THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Bradley Herrick, Director, UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

In October, the Preserve staff held a public town hall style gathering at the Arboretum. Staff highlighted accomplishments from 2025, shared priority projects for 2026 and gave updates on the soon to be built Frautschi Center.

In 2025, Preserve staff mentored four undergraduate students as they gained hands-on experience in ecological restoration. Through a generous financial gift, the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve supports one of these students each year. Student engagement was also highlighted by dozens of classes and a wide variety of student research projects utilizing the Preserve as a living laboratory.

Without exception, every year Preserve staff are hard at work restoring the land. In 2025, Bryn Scriver engaged hundreds of volunteers in all aspects of restoration, from invasive species removal to sowing native seeds. Adam Gundlach oversaw critically important prescribed burns and worked with students and contractors to increase native floral and faunal biodiversity throughout the Preserve. Long-term vegetation management and monitoring at Eagle Heights, supported by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, was highlighted by an impressive array of flowering forbs throughout the growing season. In 2026, we will continue brush control at Eagle Heights Woods, and we have already begun extensive clearing of near-trail hazard trees and other non-native tree species throughout Frautschi Point. This work, while messy looking at first, will ensure a safer

visitor experience and overtime, increase native plant diversity and ecosystem health. In addition, we will turn our attention to our Master Plan goals and in particular restoration and management of the ecological communities at Picnic Point. The initial work will involve removal of hazard trees, especially dead standing ash killed by the Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, we will be removing some of the downed woody debris from a major storm in 2024 and adding copious amounts of native seed to increase native plant diversity at the Point. Check our website, social media and on-the-ground kiosks for updates as this project gets underway.

The highlight of all highlights was the successful completion of the first ever bioblitz at the Preserve. Led by postdoctoral student Christopher Werneke, volunteers recorded almost 1000 species in less than 24 hours! Over 250 of these were newly documented at the Preserve and two were new to science! Look for information in the coming months for an opportunity to participate in another bioblitz this fall.

The Frautschi Center is in the final design stages with ground-breaking scheduled for 2026. This energy-positive building will be far and away the most sustainable on campus and will serve as an important hub for staff, students and the community to engage with all that the Preserve has to offer.

To learn more about these and other current events happening at the Preserve, please join our mailing list by sending a “subscribe” email to lakeshorepreserve@fpm.wisc.edu.



Only stumps remain of potentially hazardous trees near trails in Frautschi Point after removal in mid-February. Select other non-native and invasive woody species were also removed to increase native understory plant diversity.

UPDATED GOALS FOR THE FRIENDS

**Anne Pearce,
Friends Volunteer Coordinator**

In our last newsletter, we shared that our board has been engaged in strategic planning to ensure that we enter our second quarter-century with a clear vision and plans for continuing to connect people to the land, water, and stories of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Through the process, we realized that our organization’s goals were last defined in 2013. Since then, the Friends, the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve staff, and the Preserve itself have all gone through significant changes. In November, our board approved updated goals with key areas of focus in friend-raising, advocacy, and operations.

FRIEND-RAISING

- Advance public awareness and enjoyment of the Preserve through field trips and indoor events.
- Partner with community groups to expand our reach and make our events welcoming to people who might not otherwise spend time in the Preserve.
- Create social opportunities for Friends to build a sense of community with each other.
- Support Friends’ and community members’ participation in community science projects in the Preserve.

ADVOCACY

- Serve as an independent voice of advocacy to protect the Preserve’s lands and waters.

OPERATIONS

- Maintain a robust board according to the standards in our bylaws.
- Have a strategic communication plan to advance our friend-raising goals.
- Raise funds to support the activities of the Friends.

This robust list of goals reflects what we believe to be important efforts for our organization, yet we also know we can’t address all of them immediately. In our next stages of strategic planning, we will use the goals to build an action plan through which we will prioritize and define our planned efforts for the next few years.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE, in collaboration with THE FRIENDS OF URBAN NATURE and the UW-MADISON LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE present

Spring & Summer Field Trips 2026

Early Migrant Birds

Sunday, March 22, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Chuck Henrikson guides our eyes to the skies, waters and woods in search of birds passing through the Preserve en route from down south to Up North. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Science Expeditions Exploration Stations

Sunday, April 12, 2026

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Take in a constellation of hands-on Exploration Stations at Picnic Point. Brad Herrick, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director, and Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve organizer, Doris Dubielzig, will greet visitors at the Stone Gate where folks can explore the Geologic Gems therein embedded. Scott Hershberger will guide explorations of Tree Treasures at the wrought iron gate. At the bat house along the path to Picnic Point, Makeela Magomolla of the UW Bat Brigade will provide insights into the inner lives and outside flights of bats. Delve into the lives of the Mound Makers at the linear effigy mound near Fire Circle #2, and enjoy a campfire and warm beverages at the Circle. Start anytime between 1:00 and 2:50 pm at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, April 26, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Eve Emshwiller and Glenda Denniston help uncover the ephemeral beauty of plants that flower amidst the warming sun and late snows of spring in Wisconsin. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Sunday, May 3, 2026

1:30 to 4:00 pm

Join Roma Lenehan, Bryn Scriver and other volunteers in helping rid the Preserve of the invasive garlic mustard, a biennial in the Brassicaceae family that's a perennial problem. Gather at the Frautschi Point Parking Lot at 2664 Lake Mendota Drive.

Migrating Songbirds of Frautschi Point

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

7:30 to 9:30 am

Jill Feldkamp and Roma Lenehan are here to help you see, hear and ID songbirds that you may get to encounter but twice a year. Gather at Frautschi Point Parking Lot at 2664 Lake Mendota Drive.

Biocore Prairie SkyWalk

Thursday, May 21, 2026

(bad weather date, May 22)

8:30 to 10:30 pm

Put your corneas to the oculars and lift your optics-aided eyes to the skies over Biocore Prairie a month before the summer solstice for a looksee at planets, the moon, and constellations. Jim Lattis of the Department of Astronomy will be your celestial navigator. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Frog Walk

Sunday, May 24, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Join Mary Campbell from UW Hua Labs for a fun, family-friendly walk to learn about frogs and toads along the trails, shoreline, and marsh. Discover how Citizen Science volunteers are collecting

valuable data by listening to amphibian calls throughout Madison. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Insects of the Preserve

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Insects may be small, but they make up for it with their sheer diversity—Wisconsin is home to roughly 20,000 insect species. Join the Wisconsin Bug Guy, PJ Liesch, on this outing to take a closer look at the world of insects and learn about their roles in the ecosystem. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Limnology Boat Tour

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

(rain date, Friday June 12)

9:00 - 11:59 am

John Magnuson is at the helm as he takes us on a three-hour boat tour of the waters off the 4.1 miles of shoreline in the Preserve. Space is limited. Send an email to johnjosephmagnuson@gmail.com to reserve a space. Gather at the Hasler Laboratory of Limnology on the lake-shore just west of the Memorial Union Terrace.

Bluebirds & Purple Martins

Sunday, Jun 28, 2026

1:30 - 3:00 pm

The purple martin house and the Bluebird Trail at the Biocore Prairie were installed by the Friends to entice these birds to nest in the Preserve. Field trip leaders will describe the appearance, habits and nesting behaviors of purple martins and bluebirds. Leaders will also describe the Friends' efforts to protect birds from their enemies. Hopefully you'll get a peek at some baby birds, too! Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Unless noted, field trips meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk, 2000 University Bay Drive. Public parking is free on weekends and after 4:30pm on weekdays in Lot 130,

2003 University Bay Drive. The entry point is served by Metro Bus Stop #2938 outbound and #2881 inbound. See map.wisc.edu.

*Take this pullout and save it
for future reference!*

Willow Creek Expedition

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Phil Gaebler, Water Resources Engineer with the City of Madison, will guide us on a circumambulation of Willow Creek, featuring the only dam on campus, and be-decked with wild flowers this time of year. Expect interactions with fish, fowl and flora, and maybe a few muskrats. Willow Creek is the furthest south point of the Preserve, flowing beneath Campus Drive and the Wisconsin & Southern railroad tracks. The Creek is also one of our closest connections to the research buildings of campus as it forms the western boundary of the constellation of the buildings of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the WI Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. Gather at the bridge at Linden Drive over Willow Creek at 2023 Observatory Drive.

Tour of the Class of 1918 Marsh

Sunday, July 26, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

John Magnuson will guide us around and through the Marsh and detail the biological diversity and hydrological history of this outstanding gem of environmental restoration. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

iNaturalist & Other Apps for Use in BioBlitzes

Sunday, August 9, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Christopher Warneke will be leading this field trip. Christopher, a postdoc with the Damschen Lab, is a plant ecologist interested in rare species and invasive species. Meet at the Picnic Point entry kiosk, 2002 University Bay Drive. Bring your smart phone.

Effigy Mounds of Picnic Point

Sunday, August 23, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Join State Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough for a fascinating nature walk to see and learn about effigy mounds at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other local Native American history – including the discoveries in the past several years of ancient canoes, including one discovered in 2025 that dates back 5,000 years. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Monarch Migration

Sunday, September 13, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Join Biocore instructor Seth McGee for a hands-on field trip to explore the world of migrating monarchs! You'll learn how to safely catch and tag butterflies as part of a research initiative that tracks their incredible journey to Mexico. We'll also dive into monarch natural history, ecology, and conservation, and share tips for turning your own yard into a monarch-friendly ecosystem. This event is open to all ages and will entail walking on narrow trails through the tallgrass prairie. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

Fascinating Fungi

Sunday, September 27, 2026

1:30 to 3:00 pm

Explore and compare with Marie Trest's keen eye, mycologist with the Department of Botany, the wide variety of fall fungi growing and fruiting in the woods and prairies of the Preserve. Meet at the Picnic Point entrance kiosk.

PLEASE JOIN VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PRESERVE'S ANNUAL

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1:30–4:00 P.M.

Meet at the Frautschi Point parking lot.

Ecological Restoration Work Parties

*Bryn Scriver, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve*

Learn about the natural world, meet new people or visit with old friends. Activities may include removing invasive plants, maintaining trails, planting, seed collecting and more. Tools and gloves and training provided. No need to register; however, groups and youth must contact the Volunteer Coordinator prior to the event. We cancel in case of inclement weather. Bryn.scriver@wisc.edu

More information on Preserve events calendar (<https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/events-calendar/>)

VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

SAT APR 11, 9-11:30am

Meet at Picnic Point entrance kiosk

SUN APR 19, 9-11:30am

Meet at Frautschi Point parking lot



Roma Lenehan (front) leads a group of garlic mustard warriors.

Thank You, Friends Volunteers

Anne Pearce, Volunteer Coordinator

In 2025, fifty-eight volunteers supported the Friends' efforts in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and behind the scenes. Volunteer field trip leaders and hosts offered numerous opportunities for hundreds of visitors to engage deeply with natural and cultural history of the Preserve. Volunteers helped steward the Preserve at a spring garlic mustard pull and fall seed collection, both co-hosted with Preserve staff. Board and committee members spent significant time planning for the future of the Friends, managing membership, and sharing our work through our website and newsletter. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers for contributing to our mission to inspire people to connect to and care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

New volunteers are always welcome! If you're interested in lending your time to these Friends efforts, please reach out.

- **Friends' committee work** in communication, membership or outreach
- Contributions to the **newsletter**
- **Stewardship work**, such as removal of invasive plants or planting wildflowers
- **Field trips**, including offering suggestions for topics and leaders

Contact Anne Pearce (anne.pearce@wisc.edu) if you're interested in any volunteer opportunities or to submit corrections to our list of volunteers.

2025 FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you!

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Maddie Aalto | Arlene Koziol |
| Yara AL-Rayyan | Jeff Koziol |
| Laura Berger | Roma Lenehan |
| Ann Burgess | Reba Luiken |
| Mary Campbell | John Magnuson |
| Elizabeth Ceperley | Makeela Magomolla |
| Matt Chotlos | Seth McGee |
| Maggi Christianson | MJ Morgan |
| Sarah Congdon | Tom Morgan |
| Will Courtney | Scot Moss |
| Logan Dachel | Genevieve Murtaugh |
| Glenda Denniston | Paul Noeldner |
| Doris Dubielzig | Anne Pearce |
| Eve Emshwiller | Paul Quinlan |
| Morgan Farmer | Melissa Reusche |
| Philip Fauble | Amy Rosebrough |
| Jill Feldkamp | Don Sanford |
| Pam Fornell | Marcia Schmidt |
| Hiam Garner | Susan Slapnik |
| Walker Good | Taylor Stofflet |
| Sonia Haeckel | Josh Sulman |
| Victor Haeckel | Diana Tapia Ramon |
| BJ Haman | Marie Trest |
| Chuck Henrikson | Katie Umhoefer |
| Scott Hershberger | Mauricio Wesson |
| Jon Hetzel | Vizcaino |
| Steve Holtzman | Laura Wyatt |
| Signe Holz | Don Wylie |
| Thomas Jilk | Tom Zinnen |
| Chuck Keleny | |



Field trip leader Paul Quinlan teaches about winter tree identification on a December field trip.



Preserve visitors search for fall migrating birds during a September field trip.



Field trip leader Seth McGee teaches participants about monarch butterflies.



Natural Area Assistants: OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator, UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve provides myriad opportunities to observe, learn about, and research ecological interactions unfolding across the land. For students looking to take their experience beyond observation, the Preserve's Natural Area Assistants (NAA) internship provides hands-on field experience across the seasons, working to care for the ecological integrity of the land, as well as the public gathering spaces and trails of the Preserve.

Contributions from the Friends directly support these intern positions, which provide the students with experiences and connections that often translate into jobs or research projects post-graduation.



The crew getting properly fitted to unleash on invasive thickets.



Emeritus professor John Magnuson, leads a tour of Lake Mendota on Limnos II.



When you say Wisconsin...

The 2025 NAAs crew (Eden Milan, Anna Swenson, Andi Hokanson, Leah Zuschlag) put their fingerprint on several ongoing projects around the Preserve, adding a new layer of stewardship to the "annual rings" of prior year's efforts. Some of the highlights include:

- Completed two vegetation survey rounds (early and late summer) in the east zone of Eagle Heights Woods. The 2025 surveys marked the final unit to be re-surveyed after completion of the initial brush removal work in 2020, supported by Friends fundraising efforts.
- White oak acorn collection in Eagle Heights Woods and planting across the Preserve. See the Preserve's November e-news for a short write-up ([Quercus alba-lity, pg. 4](#)) on that effort.

- The crew helped kick off a multi-year effort on Picnic Point to implement management recommendations from the 2023 Master Plan Update by grinding their way through a couple acres of brush removal, both east of the narrows and west along the south shore of the point.
- Assisted Forestry & Wildlife Ecology professor George Meindl with installation of fencing for two exclusion plots in Frautsch Point. There are now 4 fenced exclusion plots paired with 4 unfenced plots for students in Forest Ecology (F&WE 551) to practice data collection and monitor impacts of deer herbivory and invasive species presence/absence over the years.

Author's Note: NAAs crew member Leah Zuschlag (xDec. '25) graduated this past December and was selected to a one-year

Hubbard Fellowship with The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska at their Platter River Prairies. Congrats, Leah!

Editor's Note: Since 2007 the Friends have been supporting student interns working within the Preserve gaining valuable hands-on experience in natural areas management; something you just can't learn in the classroom. Initially the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (formally Madison Audubon -MAS) coordinated "Prairie Partners" internship program where multiple interns would spend one day per week over 10 weeks during the summer at the Preserve assisting Preserve staff. Friends would pay for the intern's time spent at the Preserve. Five years ago MAS discontinued the program. Since that time the Friends have been sponsoring the cost of one student intern each year which is hired directly by the UW-Madison Preserve staff.

Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory: 25 Years of Data

Jacqueline Edmunds, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator,
Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory Station Coordinator

Lakeshore Nature Preserve has been host to dozens of citizen-science projects over the years, each of which bring together members of the public, local experts, and academic researchers in collaboration with students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in ways that offer unique opportunities for immersive continuing education. One of these projects stands out among the rest: the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory (BPBO).

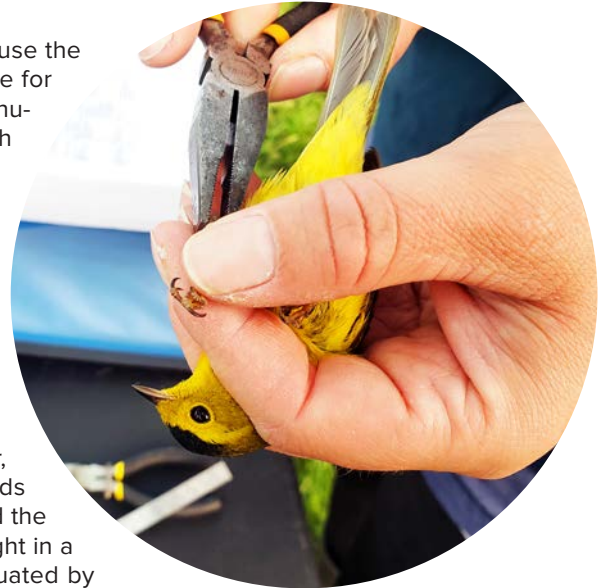
Originally founded in 2001 by the late Dr. Mara McDonald (1947-2016), BPBO began as an all-volunteer bird banding station aimed at learning about the benefits of native prairie restoration and plant diversity in relation to nesting success of avian species that utilize the Preserve as habitat. Every Saturday from April to October, a dedicated group of people would arrive at dawn, erect mist nets, and wait patiently for birds to be safely caught, measured, and federally banded as part of authorized permits from the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Thousands of birds have been documented as part of these efforts, and continues today, confirming the presence of individual birds who return year-after-year to their breeding territories or natal sites. Furthermore, banding offers a way to mon-

itor populations of birds that use the area as a crucial stopover site for feeding and rest before continuing their journeys north or south during each of the Spring or Fall migration periods.

On a typical day, up to ten mist nets are placed strategically around the Biocore Prairie central station, catching an average of 25 birds in a 4 to 5 hour period of time, while people assist with local point counts (i.e., looking for, identifying, and counting birds that are seen or heard around the station). Each bird that is caught in a mist net is handled and evaluated by a permitted bander before being fitted with a small, metallic leg band with an identification number, while students help to document age, sex, feather condition, and morphological measurements throughout the process.

For those who participate, volunteers or visitors alike, banding offers a way for people to see the incredible beauty of birds up close, in a rare and valuable way, and contribute to conservation efforts and ecological research at the same time.



Wilson's Warbler banded 5-31-25

Editor's note: Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Jackie Edmunds, Wildlife Program Manager with Dane County Humane Society, who has provided the leadership to keep the Biocore Observatory station operating since the passing of Mara in 2016. KUDOS to Mark Berres PhD, UW Biotechnology Center, who provides his professional credentials enabling the banding station to retain Federal approval to continue banding operations. Also thanks and recognition to Yushi Oguchi and Josh Seibel who are part of the team which facilitates the Saturday morning banding.

It is phenomenal that the station has been collecting data for 25 Years. Jackie shares, "To speak to the importance, banding birds connects humans to nature on many levels - improving our biological understanding of other species and how they survive in the environment, acting as sentinels for environmental health (e.g., we can monitor different disease outbreaks in local populations, like presence of avian pox), and demonstrating how important it is to have preserve habitat - not only for their survival and breeding, but for our enjoyment as people getting to hike or explore the natural world around us."

To receive information on when banding operations begin in the Spring, contact Jackie at jedmunds@uwalumni.



From left to right (top): Sathvik, Kathy, Jackie, Yishai, Yushi, George, Emelia, Aiden & (bottom): Lesley, Soren, Sarah, Andrew, Brittany

Friends of the
Lakeshore Nature Preserve

P.O. Box 5534
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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 preserve-Friends@gmail.com

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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

..... *Remembering Jerry Frautschi and his Family*



Jerry Frautschi tours the Preserve with members of the Friends in early 2000's.

It is with sadness we share the passing of W. Jerome (Jerry) Frautschi on January 8. A second-generation UW-Madison alum graduating in '56, Jerry was a generous visionary whose family's dedication will forever shape the cherished spaces of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Jerry's commitment to preserving campus natural spaces began in the late 1980s, when he and his brother John donated Second Point to UW-Madison in celebration of his father Walter Frautschi. The area was renamed Frautschi Point in his honor. For the first time in the history of UW-Madison, an unbroken natural shoreline extended from just west of the Memorial Union all the way to the Village of Shorewood Hills. The family subsequently established a

generous endowment to ensure its long-term care.

Most recently, Jerry gave nearly \$17 million to the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve to build the Frautschi Center, a visitor center at the entrance to Picnic Point. This lasting legacy—is a sustainable and accessible gathering space where UW students, faculty, staff, and the broader Madison community can connect with the remarkable cultural, ecological, and wellness resources of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

Jerry's commitment to UW-Madison, the beautiful lakeshore, and the Madison community will enrich lives for generations to come. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.