



PRESERVE!

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Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter

Dedicated to the Preservation and Stewardship of our Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies and Shorelines

Frautschi Point

by Jean Meanwell

Frautschi Point, like much of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, is an area with a fascinating history. Native American ceramics have been found near the lake shore – evidence of some of the earliest visitors to the property. The first European Americans who came to the area were most likely farmers.

Family Ownership

For over 100 years, the history of Frautschi Point revolved around the history of one family, beginning with the purchase of the Heron Farm in the early 1880's by Madison businessmen, Breese Stevens and Morris Fuller. At this time – and until 1989 – the property was known as Second Point, called that because it was the second point visible from “downtown” Madison. The first point was Picnic Point. When Breese Stevens died, his daughters, Elizabeth and Amelia, inherited the Frautschi Point property.

The main path which goes down to the lake from the parking lot was once an asphalt drive leading to two “cottages.” The first cottage, known as the Jackson Cottage, was built in 1921 as a summer house by Elizabeth and her husband, Dr. Reginald H. Jackson. The second cottage was owned by her sister, Amelia.

After the death of his parents, Dr. Reginald H. Jackson Jr. took over the acreage and lived in the seven bedroom main cottage until his death in 1986, even though the house was never properly winterized. A series of caretakers and their families lived in what was known as “Aunt Amelia’s” House.

Dr. Jackson Jr. was definitely a colorful local character. He built a hangar for his seaplane so that he could enjoy flying. “Reg” could often be seen flying over Lake Mendota on a clear summer’s day. He liked to hunt and stocked the land with pheasants, which raided the University’s cornfields. He had a duck blind near the old outdoor fireplace, supposedly with a compartment for a wood stove to keep him and his fellow hunters warm. At least one of his

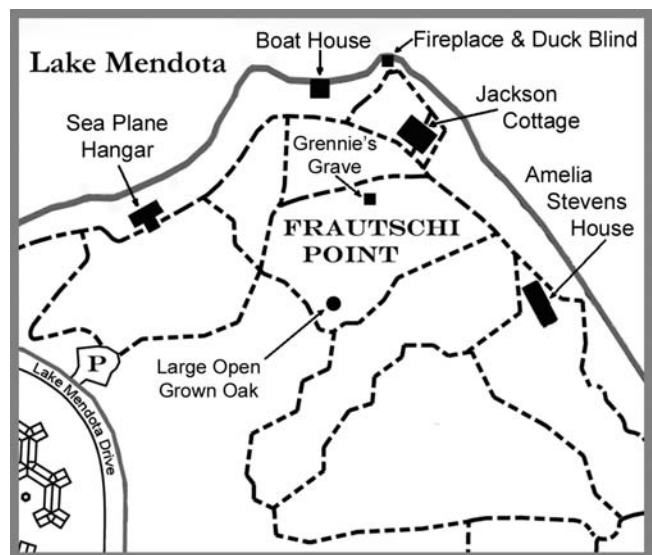
dogs, Grennie, is buried on the property. Grennie’s Grave, just east of the triangle drive, can still be visited.

He kept his 35 foot sailboat, the “Peggy,” conveniently moored off the shore out from the point – unlighted at night – definitely a hazard for the unwary boater. The boat house at the very tip of the point housed his motor boat which he used to get out to the “Peggy.” Gossip at the time suggested that he and his fraternity brothers sank that sailboat more than once.

The University Acquires Second Point

Since Jackson’s property was located between two sections of shore line owned by the University of Wisconsin, they were interested in completing the lake shore preservation area by acquiring Second Point. In late 1988, John and Jerry Frautschi donated 1.5 million dollars in honor of their father, Walter A. Frautschi, to the University of Wisconsin Foundation to be used to purchase the Jackson property.

Today, Frautschi Point is the site of extensive restoration guided by the 2006 Master Plan for the Preserve and being carried out by Preserve staff, students and volunteers.



Map of Jackson Property (now Frautschi Point)

Volunteer Profile: Hui Jung “Nora” Kim

Hui Jung “Nora” Kim came from South Korea to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Sociology. During Nora’s free time on the weekends, she volunteered at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, always willing to do whatever needed to be done.

Nora spent many hours controlling Garlic Mustard throughout the year. She pulled thousands of first year plants in the fall. Early in the spring, she searched for small second year plants and disrupted the newly sprouted first year cotyledons. Later she collected dozens of bags of bolted, blooming and seeding Garlic Mustard. She served as a Pull-A-Thon team leader. She visited every area of the Preserve removing Garlic Mustard, including Big Woods, where she was one of the few volunteers who managed to find her way around and not lose her three or four full Garlic Mustard bags.

But Nora’s volunteer work did not end there. She planted plants for the Friends with Glenda Denniston. She helped Glenda remove, drag and pile buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Nora spent three summers working to create a woodland edge by planting savanna and woodland plants between the University Houses Gardens and Eagle Heights Woods. She laboriously cut tree resprouts to keep the area open, in the process becoming covered by millions of stick-tights from Hackalea, White Avens, and Jump Seed. She transplanted woodland plants like Wild Ginger and Solomon’s Seal. Last fall she planted dozens of purchased New England Aster and Swamp Milkweed plants. This summer she trimmed stick-tights to make room for the new plants to grow, enabling the New England Aster to bloom beautifully this fall.

Nora received her PhD in June and has a job teaching Sociology at the University of Mary Washington at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Although we will miss her, we wish her luck in her new endeavors. She hopes to visit and do some work in the Eagle Heights Woods edge.



Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

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Friends of the Preserve

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

We Welcome Submissions to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Newsletter and Website

The Friends welcomes the submission of articles and announcements for our newsletter. We encourage people to share their checklists and other relevant Preserve materials on the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Website. For information on submitting material, call Roma Lenehan at 238-5406 or send your articles or checklists to rlenehan@charter.net. To reserve space in our next newsletter, please tell us about your material by January 21, 2010. The submission deadline is February 11, 2010.

Fall Field Trip

Enjoying Fall in Picnic Point Woods

October 24 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30 PM

Fall is the season for winterizing. We’ll enjoy what leaf color is left and look for seeds, insect signs, bird flocks, etc. We will “read” the ecological history of this special area by interpreting distinctive characteristics of trees and other vegetation. (Cancel only for solid, continuous rain). Meet at Picnic Point Parking Lot.

Leader: Susan Will-Wolf (262-2754, weekdays)

Fall Bird Migration in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

by Roma Lenehan

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve, a Wisconsin Important Bird Area, provides opportunities to see a wide variety of birds during the fall bird migration. Although identifying fall migrants can be challenging, at the Preserve you can study the birds throughout the long season and enjoy the beauty of the fall.

Neotropical Songbird Migration

Perhaps the best known birds of the Preserve, these small songbirds migrate south into Latin America. In contrast to the spring, when breeding males have colorful plumage and often sing, most fall migrants, including many of the warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings, have molted into a duller plumage and seldom sing. Even in species that retain bright plumage, like Baltimore Oriole and Redstart, the duller juvenile and female birds greatly outnumber the bright males. Other species, such as the thrushes, flycatchers and vireos, also offer identification challenges since they seldom sing.

Fall migration begins as early as July, and by mid-August many species are migrating. Preserve songbird diversity usually peaks in September, but some of these birds linger into October, eating berries and seeds as well as insects. Migration is weather dependent.

Most of these birds occupy the woodlands in the spring, but often prefer the open edges of the prairie and gardens in the fall. Many migrating birds land on Frautschi Point, the northernmost point of the Preserve, resulting in good fall bird diversity at Frautschi Point. As in spring, the birds often feed near the lake unless the winds are from the north.

Sparrows

The Eagle Heights Gardens and Biocore Prairie attract multiple sparrow species from late September to early November. Sparrows are challenging, so picking a rare sparrow from the dozens of other sparrows – mostly Chipping, Song, and White-throated – can take patience. The regularly occurring beautiful White-crowned and Fox Sparrows (woodland edges) and Eastern Towhees reward birders' persistence.

Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory

On most nice Saturdays from April through October, Mara McDonald and her volunteers band birds in Biocore Prairie, giving people an opportunity to see some of the confusing sparrows and warblers up close (see www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/profiles/McDonald). The banding station has banded over 1800 birds of more than 70 species in its eight years. Visitors are welcome. In spring and fall the banding station has an open house.

Waterfowl and Other Water Birds

University Bay was named a Game Refuge in 1927. In 1944 the University Bay Game Refuge was expanded to 692 acres. From 1946 to 1980 the Wildlife Management Techniques class counted waterfowl in University Bay, tracing the population trends. William Vander Zouwen, summarizing this work in his thesis, noted that waterfowl visitation decreased during this period (Vander Zouwen, W. 1983. *Waterfowl Use and Habitat Changes of a Refuge in Southern Wisconsin: 1947-1980*).

A diverse set of dabbling ducks usually visit the Preserve for prolonged periods in the fall, feeding in the Class of 1918 Marsh and visiting University Bay. The Blue-winged Teal arrive in August. They are followed by Shovelers, Gadwalls and American Wigeons. The number of dabbling ducks, including the resident Mallards and Wood Ducks, can reach several hundred birds. Smaller numbers of Green-winged Teal and occasional Pintails visit most years. The once common Black Ducks only rarely visit. The "best" viewing places for the obscured Marsh are the berms west of the circular parking lot and the Marsh observation platform.

A diverse set of diving ducks and other water birds visit University Bay. The Coots arrive in late August, increasing into October to a peak of hundreds of birds, then decreasing. Common Loons regularly occur from September through November, sometimes gathering in numbers. Pied-billed Grebes are present most of the fall, but less common Horned Grebes visit only for a short time and other grebes are only rarely seen.

The diving ducks used to be common on University Bay. They still regularly visit in bad weather when Picnic Point shelters the Bay and late in the season when boat traffic decreases. The most common diving duck is the Bufflehead. The Bay was once an important feeding area for Canvasbacks, but now they usually visit only briefly. Usually small numbers of Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Redheads appear in mid-fall and may linger. After smaller lakes freeze, large numbers of ducks often gather on Lake Mendota, providing the best viewing of the season. The large rafts of diving ducks are dominated by Common Mergansers and Goldeneyes. Often Tundra Swans visit the Bay late in the season and may stay until it freezes.

Fall Visits

Almost any bird that regularly visits Wisconsin can be found in the Preserve, including hawks, shorebirds, terns, and wading birds. (For more information, see waa.uwalumni.com/lakeshorepreserve/birdoverview.html). Enjoy the fall migration, which begins in July and continues until the lake freezes!

Beekeeping in the Preserve

Project of the F.H. King Students for Sustainable Agriculture (Photos by Glenda Denniston)



Beekeepers and Observers at Honeybee Enclosure, East Savanna



Beekeepers Removing Tray Containing Honey and Bees



Bee Communication Seen from Up Close



Beekeeper Holding a Tray Partly Filled with Honey



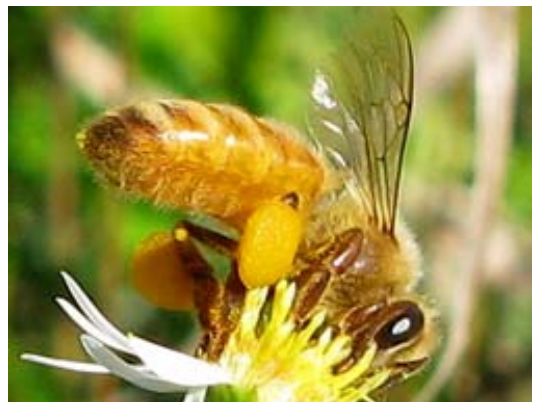
Bees Are More Numerous and Active in the Lower Brood Trays



Brood Tray: Larvae, Nectar and Pollen in Separate Compartments



Worker Bee Using Tongue to Push Nectar into Compartment



Bee Nectaring on Gully Aster – Pollen Attached to Hind Leg

What Are Those Ugly Growths?

by Glenda Denniston

Is it a Disease? Will it Kill the Trees?

When I first noticed numerous hard growths clustered on the branches of several young Bur Oaks planted along the field edge near Frautschi Point, I was concerned. Although I suspected that the growths were galls, I did not know if they could damage the health of the trees. A brief online search convinced me that they were indeed galls, but that they probably would not cause serious damage. I put them out of my mind.

This summer, students walking with me along the field edge noticed large wasps, Bald-faced Hornets (*Dolichovespula maculata*) and other wasps, crawling over the galls. The students wanted to know what was happening. I told them that I often saw hornets around the galls, but that I didn't know what the wasps were doing. I was quite sure that the large wasps we were seeing were not the ones responsible for the gall formation.

What were the large hornets doing at the galls? My curiosity aroused, I decided to check the literature for more details.

Oak Rough Bulletgall Wasps

The insect responsible for the galls on the young Bur Oaks is the Oak Rough Bulletgall Wasp (*Disholcaspis quercusmamma*). Though the galls are alarmingly conspicuous, the wasp is very small and seldom seen. Female wasps, after emerging from their own galls, lay eggs in oak buds in late fall. The following summer, the tiny larvae hatch and their saliva induces the oak to produce a protective gall by abnormal cell growth.



Bald-faced Hornets on Bur Oak Galls (G Denniston)

What, then, are the large hornets doing on the galls? They are eating a sweet substance secreted by the galls. A third wasp is part of the story. Apparently the large wasps, that prey on smaller

insects, protect the gall-producing wasp larvae from even smaller wasps that parasitize the larvae inside their galls (see the article by Mark Shour, www.extension.iastate.edu/newsrel/2004/may04/may0414.html).

Oak Apple Gall Wasps

The other oak gall commonly seen in the Preserve is the Oak Apple Gall, produced by the tree in response to a hormone released by the female of a different small wasp (*Amphibolips confluenta*) during egg-laying. The larva develops in the safety of the chemically induced gall, eating the plant tissue inside. In autumn male and female adult wasps emerge from the galls and mate. The galls eventually fall to the ground. Females dig underground and lay eggs on the oak roots, which then form root galls. The larvae feed on root tissue for over a year. In the spring wingless females, but no males, hatch from these root galls. They dig out, crawl up the trunk of the oak, and lay unfertilized eggs in the growing tissue of an oak leaf midrib, simultaneously injecting the hormone. Both male and female larvae eventually emerge from these Oak Apple Galls, mate and start the cycle over again (see www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/oak_apple_gall_wasp.htm).



Oak Apple Gall, Split to Reveal Wasp Larva (G Denniston)

Complex “Mini-ecosystems”

These are two of the more conspicuous insect-produced galls found in the Preserve. Other types of galls have their own stories. Many galls are the result of abnormal plant cell growth stimulated by insect secretions, but chemicals from other organisms, such as fungi, can also cause galls.

Gall insects have predators, both large and small. Birds and small mammals often break galls open and eat the larvae inside. The larvae of smaller parasitic wasps, after hatching from eggs laid in the galls, kill the gall wasp larvae. Sometimes, as in the case of the Oak Rough Bulletgall Wasps, the relationship with other insects is more complex. As is often the case with natural phenomena, the more one learns about galls the more fascinating they become.

Tent Colony Woods Improvements

Have you looked at Tent Colony Woods (north of Lake Mendota Drive between Frautschi Point and Raymer's Cove) recently? Dramatic improvements have occurred in this area thanks to a Class of 1955 gift.

At the east end, below the Frautschi Point parking lot, hundreds of wildflowers thrived in the area where buckthorn was removed last year. Toothwort, Wood Phlox, Bloodroot, and Dutchman's Breeches bloomed beautifully in the spring. This fall asters, Zigzag and Elm-leaved Goldenrod provided color.

Along the Lakeshore Path to the west, several areas have been opened, restoring views of the lake. The site of the Tent Colony, located up the hill, is now visible, allowing you to imagine the area with dozens of tents. Removing the wall of shrubs allows walkers to enjoy the many spring wildflowers and the fall color while walking along the Path.

This fall the restoration project expanded to the Raymer's Cove area. The Audubon Interns spent two days removing honeysuckle and buckthorn above and to the east of the parking lot, creating enormous piles of brush. The brush was chipped and the chips placed on Preserve trails. This brush removal allows visitors to see into the Preserve from Lake Mendota Drive. The view from Raymer's Cove (now a colorful restored prairie) is of the beauty of Tent Colony Woods rather than a wall of honeysuckle. Next spring the many woodland wildflowers, including False Solomon's Seal, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and Red Baneberry will be visible. The ongoing restoration plots (see PRESERVE! Winter 2007, page 1) with their many planted wildflowers will be visible from the parking lot and the Lakeshore Path.

This fall plants and seeds were planted in the newly cleared area. A University League volunteer work party planted plants donated by the Friends of the Preserve close to the driveway and parking lot. The plants were Columbine, Short's and Smooth Blue Aster, Bottlebrush Grass, Sprangles' Sedge, and Tall Bellflower. Savanna seeds, which will take several years to mature, were also spread throughout the area.

Now most of the Tent Colony Woods is visible from the trails, providing views of the area of the historic Tent Colony as well as the beauty of the woods and wildflowers. Thank you, Class of 1955, for funding the restoration of this special area.

Sightings in the Preserve

Toads and Frogs – If you walked in the Preserve this summer, you had to be careful to avoid stepping on the many small toads on trails. Later in the year, Leopard Frogs appeared in numbers, wandering long distances from the marshes, despite the moderately dry weather.

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Mammals Found – Several mink were seen in the Preserve, often away from water. At least one White-tailed Deer also grazed on the Preserve restorations, eating the flowers off of the wildflowers as they came into bloom.

Magic Lilies – Multiple magic lilies bloomed on Grennie's grave in Frautschi Point, prospering because Friends volunteers controlled the buckthorn, giving the lilies the sunlight they require to bloom.

Announcements

Stanley Dodson

We are sad to let you know of the unexpected death of Stanley Dodson, a new member of the Friends of the Preserve Board. He just retired from the Zoology Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research examined effects of predation on the ecology of lakes and ponds. He encouraged undergraduate students in his community service course to volunteer at the Preserve. These students often worked with Glenda Denniston, helping restore the Big Oak Trail and other areas. Stanley with his wife Virginia enthusiastically led field trips to the Class of 1918 Marsh, encouraging participants to put on boots or waders and collect samples to see what was living in this restored wetland. Stanley was a long time supporter of the Preserve. Stanley's family chose the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for memorial donations, leaving a continuing legacy at the Preserve. In the summer, he taught many students Limnology on Lake Mendota. He loved the waters he studied. He loved Lake Mendota. He loved science - its history, its ideas, its intricacies, its search for generality, and the discoveries yet to be made. We will miss him.

Accessible Bird Watchers Area

A trial Accessible Bird Watchers Area was set up this fall at the edge of Bill's Woods. A bird bath (located close to the trail along University Bay Drive beyond the Bird Sightings Board) was put in to see if birds would be attracted to this area. The bird bath and natural food, like Pagoda Dogwood berries, in the Bill's Woods restoration attracted a variety of birds. Early in the fall it attracted many vireos. This winter, a more permanent, natural looking, bird bath will be installed along with a platform for wheel chairs and an informal log seat. This area will allow people with limited mobility to sit and observe birds and enjoy the beautiful restoration at Bill's Woods, a project of the Friends of the Preserve.

Save the Date!

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Annual Meeting will be April 6, 2010, at the Arboretum.

Interns Preserve Nature in the City

by Megan Goplin, Summer Intern

As a senior in my fourth year at UW-Madison, I look back with much appreciation for all of the wonderful memories. Growing up close to Madison in Blue Mounds, initially moving from rural to urban was a shock to my “prairie girl” roots. As a freshman I desperately sought a place to get away from the crowds of students, the noise of traffic, and the unfamiliar city smell. I found the perfect solace in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Whether going for a run, walking with friends, or visiting for a class, the surprisingly vast expanse of nature fulfilled my need for solitude.

My interest in environmental conservation and appreciation for the natural areas on campus coincided this summer thanks to my position as a restoration ecology intern. Every week for ten weeks our five student crew visited five sites, a different location each day of the week, to learn about the art of restoration. Along with the other student interns (Jessica Buchberger, Matt Groshek, Jo Horton, and Dylan Kirk), I became part of the tradition of environmental conservation that is a rich part of Wisconsin’s past, present, and through the efforts of organizations like the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, future.

This dynamic “weed defeating” crew spent Thursdays working on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We looked forward to biking the beloved Lakeshore Path to work. We were made to feel welcome by a refreshing Lake Mendota breeze, an enthusiastic Preserve staff, Tom’s tasty treats, and repeated sightings of the not-so-elusive “Wood Fairy” (also known as Glenda Denniston). We were repeatedly inspired by the creative ideas by Stephen Thomforde, who, along with Tom Helgeson, served as our crew leader.

Over the course of the summer the crew worked on a variety of projects, including weeding Willow Creek

Woods, Frautschi Point, and the Lot 34 prairie plantings, assisting graduate students with plant surveys, and removing large amounts of honeysuckle from Tent Colony Woods. It truly inspired us to see the progress we had made in improving the ecological integrity of these areas. Our crew contributed to the ongoing efforts that take place at the Preserve and we were reassured that these special places would be taken care of in the future by devoted volunteers, such as members of the Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve, as well as students and future interns. We encountered a variety of interesting people and wildlife throughout the summer. The most memorable was a young male hawk at Willow Creek Woods feasting on the small rodents we were stirring up with our work.

In addition to all that we learned in the field due to the staff and natural integrity of the Preserve, Thursdays spent in the Preserve offered a unique insight into the complexities of managing such a high profile site. Many different groups with their own distinct interests have a stake in the future of the Preserve, which can complicate the process of collaboration. Yet this intense interest in the quality of the area suggests that restoration will succeed. With a committed volunteer network, a hardworking staff, a university’s worth of resources, and the beauty of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve itself, I am hopeful that the Preserve will continue to serve the diverse human, plant, and animal communities that share it. I look forward to taking time this year to experience what the Preserve has to offer. I now better appreciate people who restore and preserve the land and understand the immense effort this takes.

The Friends of the Preserve paid the wages of the Interns who worked in the Preserve this summer.

Join the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Name _____	Student	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____	Individual	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
City, State _____ Zip Code _____	Household	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____	Steward	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information about how to volunteer	Patron	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Include your email address and telephone number if you would like to volunteer)	Other	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mail your check payable to Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve with this form to:

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve P.O. Box 55056 Madison, WI 53705

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Preserve has New Volunteer Coordinator and Field Technician

The University of Wisconsin's hiring of two new Lakeshore Nature Preserve staff, a half-time Volunteer Coordinator and a half-time Field Technician, will allow the Preserve staff to accomplish a great deal of work on new and continuing projects.

Bryn Scriver, the new Volunteer Coordinator, will provide outreach services to integrate Preserve stewardship activities with community and student volunteer user groups. Bryn's responsibilities include creating and maintaining a volunteer database, assessing Preserve needs, matching volunteers to projects in the Preserve, supervising volunteers and developing a volunteer program action plan.

Adam Gundlach, the new Field Technician, is trained to operate a chain saw and chipper. As a result, the Preserve staff won't need to rely as heavily on the UW Grounds crew for tree removals and site preparation for restoration activities. Adam's responsibilities include invasive species removal, herbicide application, trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, tool maintenance and general support for work party activities.

The Preserve staff conducted a series of "Back to Campus" planting events during three weeks in



Adam Gundlach and Bryn Scriver, New Staff (G Denniston)

September in order to showcase the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and its new volunteer program. Staff and volunteers planted over one thousand native plants along the Lake Mendota shoreline and in the Triangle Marsh along the Central Lakeshore Path. Several student groups participated, including Wisconsin Basecamp, Students of the Lakeshore Preserve, Kappa Delta Chi Sorority and Horticulture 120 students.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, please contact Bryn Scriver at bscriver@fpm.wisc.edu or 608-220-5560.

Friends of the Preserve
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It's time to renew October and
November memberships