



# THE BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

Promoting Ecological Restoration and Stewardship of Native Habitats

Winter 2001 Vol. 4 No. 1

## We Want You!

### Message From The Board

Carroll Schaal, President

It has been quite a winter hasn't it? Global warming, La Nina—who knows what the future will bring? Predicting the future is a risky business but essential if one is to be prepared.

The board has been busy preparing for the Annual Meeting. **We'd like you to attend.** It will be held March 10th, 10 am to noon in Mount Horeb. You'll hear a full report on the year's accomplishments and have the opportunity to participate in discussions about the Project's future directions. (See *BMAP Annual Meeting* on page 2 for more details.)

In this newsletter, you'll find out about the latest Project activities and what the Board is doing to prepare for the future. And as always, there are semi-technical snippets of information relating to ecology and perhaps even global warming.

As for the snippets, in a past newsletter we discussed an U.S. Geological Survey study showing a trend of less frequent extreme flooding and drought over the last several decades in area streams. Continuing on this theme, we invited UW Professor James Knox, who has cored, bored and studied the geology of the driftless region, to share his understanding of the historical impacts of land use change on our area's streams.

We believe that it is important for land managers to understand these historical and hydrological impacts and their legacy. If you weren't one of the 40 people attending Knox's January 9<sup>th</sup> talk, you'll find it summarized on page 3. I think you'll see BMAP paying more attention to the aquatic components of our ecosystem in the future.

In other news, we are about midway through our grant-funded Forestry Stewardship Project (see *A Forest Is More Than Trees* on page 5). We are still compiling the results of the landowner survey but we can already tell that there is a lot of food for thought on the future of forestry management.

We are interested in your feedback on our selection of topics for the newsletter and your suggestions for future articles. A good way to do that would be through the new BMAP mailing list. See webmaster Peter Weil's article on page 2 for more about this exciting new service.

Since our last newsletter we conducted our annual membership drive and fund-raising effort. I'm glad to report that your support for the Project continues to show as we netted about the same amount as last year when we had the fortune of starting off with a \$1000 challenge match! If you made a donation or renewed your membership, **thank you!** If you

haven't, please consider doing so.

We also hope you'll consider passing this newsletter along to others and encourage them to join. We always need new members, and if each newsletter is passed along to one other household, our circulation and exposure is doubled. If you leave it at a coffee shop, reading room, or doctor's office, the opportunity for others to learn about our work increases many fold.

Now, back to the future. On February 3, the Project Board of Directors and a few members and guests gathered in Mazomanie for a strategic planning session. We have chugged along for the last four years or so, doing our planning month-to-month at Board meetings, over the phone, and through

email. We thought it would be a good idea to spend a little time together, free of distractions, to reflect on our "mission" and contemplate our future. I look forward to

sharing the results with you at our upcoming Annual Meeting and in subsequent newsletters as the BMAP continues to grow and strengthen.

Last year we set a goal to become an official nonprofit organization independent of our long and positive relationship with Conservation Consultants, Inc. of Gays Mills. Currently we are registered with the state of Wisconsin as a nonprofit corporation, and we will soon be filing for the same status with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Along the way, the process made us think hard about how the organization should work. One important aspect of this is the role of members and the perpetuation of an active Board of Directors. This last point is important because without a dedicated corps of leaders, an organization such as ours will flounder.

Currently our draft bylaws establish that the Board is self-perpetuating; that is, the Board itself essentially recruits, nominates, and elects the Directors with the assistance of the membership. At the Annual meeting we will discuss this further and establish the nominating committee.

In closing, I would like to make an appeal for members interested in serving as a director or volunteering on one of our standing committees (membership, fund-raising, education, policy, land stewardship). This is YOUR organization. Please help us prepare for your future. \*

I'm glad to report that your support for the Project continues to show as we netted about the same amount as last year when we had the fortune of starting off with a \$1000 challenge match!

## BMAP Annual Meeting

March 10, Saturday  
10 am to noon

~ see page 2 for the agenda ~

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## **BMAP ANNUAL MEETING\*\*\*\*\***

### **What's Your Vision?**

March 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 10 AM to noon

In order to allow more time for question–answer and discussion, we will not have a speaker this year. Instead, we hope you will speak to us with your ideas, your concerns, your vision of BMAP's future.

We'll update you on last year's activities—the forestry grant related work, the web site, our workshops, and the results of the forest survey. Our incorporation as a 501c3 nonprofit and the resulting bylaws and organizational structure will also figure prominently.

**Planning for next year and beyond will be an important component of the meeting; we're eager to have your input.**

We would like to establish a nominating committee to help elect the next Board of Directors. We want your ideas for new activities, how we could be more effective or helpful, and how we can grow our membership. We'll also talk about our proposed budget.

The meeting will be held at the Amcore Bank, 100 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in downtown Mt. Horeb, at the corner of Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Bring a non–member to the meeting and help make them a member. \*

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## **Join Our New Internet Discussion List**

Peter Weil, Webmaster

BP–List, our new Internet discussion list was launched during late–December. This means we now have an “online forum” that enables you to quickly and easily communicate with other members about project–related topics. You can pose questions, share your stories and experiences, and explore ways to share knowledge and pool resources. Here are some of the ways the you can use the new list:

- organize communal work parties
- arrange equipment sharing
- arrange seed swapping
- announce special events
- share information, techniques, and experiences regarding restorations, controlling exotic species, deer management, etc.

These are just a few of the possibilities. But this is **your** forum. Your knowledge, experience, and curiosity are among BMAP's greatest assets—please share them. More information about the list is available on our web site at

[www.bluemounds.org/list.html](http://www.bluemounds.org/list.html). To join, go directly to the list information page at [www.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/bmp-list](http://www.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/bmp-list).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [pweil@genetics.wisc.edu](mailto:pweil@genetics.wisc.edu) or call me at 608–767–7985.

**Note:** With the introduction of the new list, the old email list has become obsolete and will soon cease operating. You'll need to join the new internet discussion list if you wish to continue receiving BMAP email announcements. \*

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## **Far More Nitrogen Leached From Corn Fields Than A Nearby Restored Prairie**

The amount of nitrogen that leached from two corn fields during a three–year study was many times greater than that leaching from a restored prairie, according to University of Wisconsin–Madison scientists.

Researchers from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences found that nitrogen leaching from no–till and chisel–plow corn ranged from 32 pounds to 80 pounds per acre per year during the study. “More than half the annual total of 80 pounds of nitrogen leached during a heavy June rainstorm,” says John Norman, a soil physicist who led the research team. “By comparison, only about a pound of nitrogen per acre per year leached from the prairie.”

The study looked at two systems on the same soil type. One is the current vegetation, corn, an annual plant that requires the highest nitrogen input of any Wisconsin crop. The other is the historic vegetation cover, prairie with perennial plants that receive no fertilizer. The restored prairie gives us a reference point for evaluating current systems.

In addition to Norman and Bundy, the research team included soil science graduate student Kris Brye and forest ecologist Tom Gower.

The study was conducted on a deep prairie soil about 20 miles north of Madison, Wis. The two corn sites are located at the College's Arlington Agricultural Research Station. The restored prairie is a mile away at Madison Audubon Society's Goose Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. The sites share a common soil type and had a similar farming history until the prairie was re–established.

The researchers estimate that total nitrogen input to the corn fields ranged from 250 pounds to 300 pounds per acre per year, while the prairie received 70 to 75 pounds of nitrogen per acre per year. The corn received 160 pounds of nitrogen per acre as ammonium nitrate at planting, usually the first week of May. The prairie received nitrogen only from rain and decaying plant matter.

Nitrogen travels in water as nitrate and nitrite. Much of the water and nitrogen that move below the root zone will eventually reach ground water, the drinking water source for most rural Wisconsin residents. High levels of nitrogen in ground water have been linked to “blue–babies,” an oxygen–deficiency problem in babies' blood that can result in injuries and even death. The federal and state drinking water standard for nitrogen is 10 parts per million. Studies show that wells in many southern Wisconsin counties already exceed the standard, according to Norman.

*A longer version of this article can be found at [www.cals.wisc.edu/media/news](http://www.cals.wisc.edu/media/news). You'll also find other interesting and informative stories here of interest to urban and rural folks, including articles on ecological weed control, grazing, great lawns, and many other topics. \**

## The Impact of Historical Land Use on Southwestern Wisconsin Streams

*The Blue Mounds Area Project recently invited Dr. James Knox, a UW distinguished professor of Geography, to share his knowledge on the historical links between geology, settlement, land management, and the present ecological condition of our streams and rivers. The following is a summary of Professor Knox's talk.*

The soils of the driftless area formed from weathered bedrock and loess soil. Loess is the wind blown, silt sized particles that were eroded from the upper Mississippi valley shortly after the glaciers receded while the area was a dry, open tundra constantly buffeted by strong winds. This loose, easily eroded silt is now covered by a thin layer of black organic soil formed from decaying plant matter. This layering, coupled with the steep topography the driftless area is known for, creates landscape sensitivity to erosion.

While the process of soil-building took eons, it took humans very little time to make dramatic changes through settlement, mining, and agriculture. Essentially, the complete conversion of the native savanna into corn, wheat, hay, and pasture occurred between 1850 and 1900—a mere 50 years! This rapid clearing, building, and cultivation exposed the uplands to erosion, stripping off 6 to 16 inches of topsoil and washing it into the valleys. During this time period flood discharges increased 200 to 400% and the frequency of overbank flooding increased 500 to 600%. This has had a dramatic impact on our streams.

Overbank sedimentation rates (deposition in floodplains) during the agricultural period ranged from 0.5 to 1.25 inches per year compared to the pre-agriculture long-term average of only 0.0078 inches per year. During the agricultural period a single storm event has produced floods large enough to deposit 6 to 8 inches of sediment. Deposition rates as high as 0.75 inches per hour have been recorded. In his investigations of the driftless area, Dr. Knox has routinely found up to 12 feet of “new” soil in stream valleys and floodplains. All of this material is soil that has eroded from the surrounding landscape.

In addition to research statistics, Knox used historical photos to illustrate how widespread and catastrophic these conditions were. Canyon-like gullies appeared and entire hillsides disappeared, sometimes almost overnight. Sediment piled up in the valley bottoms, plugging bridges, stream channels, and filling-in valley floors.

By the 1920s, serious attention was being given to this environmental and economic disaster. In the 1930s, the federal government, led by Otto Zesman, also known as the “gully doctor,” undertook widespread public work projects to address the problem with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This conservation movement continued through the emergence of county land conservation departments in the 1950s evolving into today's myriad of federal, state, and local

conservation programs and agricultural policies. By the 1960s large-scale erosion was being brought under control.

Huge gullies, a legacy of this era, can still be found resting underneath healing trees, shrubs, and grasses. Improved land conservation practices and changes in the way crops are planted and grown have reduced the magnitude and frequency of floods, erosion, and sedimentation from late 19th and early 20th century peak values. While the landscape has stabilized, several lingering feedback effects will continue to challenge land and water management for years to come.

First, the topsoil that was lost had a relatively high infiltration capacity compared to the soil that is now exposed at the surface. With less capacity in the uplands to absorb rainfall, it takes less rain to cause saturation, further enhancing surface runoff and soil erosion. Unfortunately, global warming appears to be contributing to more frequent large floods

throughout the upper Mississippi River Valley. There is evidence that since the early 1990s, soil erosion and sedimentation in many southwestern Wisconsin watersheds have increased in

response to several extreme rainfalls and increases in soybean and corn field acreage.

A second feedback creates ecological impacts further downstream. Accelerated sediment delivery to river systems will continue for many decades because of remobilization of stored sediment. Over time streams move sinuously. Winding back and forth like a snake, they quickly cut down to the hard rubble and bedrock parent material, thereby maintaining a “historical” bottom elevation. As a result, streams today are “incised,” cutting steep banks in the elevated valley floor.

The black prairie soil's “A” horizon buried under several feet of sediment can be readily seen when walking along area streams today. While these banks are continuous sources of sediment, because the incised channels limit overbank flooding, sediment from the uplands is also efficiently transported downstream. Together these sources continue to plague backwater sloughs and other areas of low energy. These effects make Knox question to benefit of expensive stream “rip-rap” projects.

The Blue Mounds Area Project is grateful to Dr. Knox for sharing his time and knowledge. Look for future newsletter articles on this and related topics as we continue to explore the important link between hydrology and ecology. \*

*Editor's note: Thank-you to Carroll Schall for summarizing Dr. Knox's talk.*

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## Intervention or Nature's Way?

Bob Wernerehl, BMAP Ecologist

In an evaluation of our workshop on Managing Woodlands in Southwestern Wisconsin a participant asked: "All the talk of Indians and their periodic burns had me confused—isn't that human intervention as well? So, are we in fact promoting continued intervention rather than Nature's own way?"

This is an excellent question and one that comes up often. There are many possibilities to consider when attempting to answer this question. I'll include a few of them here. Philosophically, there may not be a perfect answer.

Ecologically, however, there are some important points to make.

Our Wisconsin ecosystems have undergone truly massive changes since European settlement. Although the glaciers also caused massive changes not that long ago, the changes they brought were slow enough—spread out over thousands of years—to allow plant and animal communities to retreat and re-advance gradually and remain mostly intact. Native Americans certainly impacted the land as well. Like the glaciers, however, these changes were mostly gradual.

Since European settlement we have eliminated species, added new ones, and changed essential ecological processes. Wolves and cougars, the two top predators, have been eliminated. A keystone oak woodland species, the passenger pigeon, was also extirpated. Those actions have caused cascading consequences throughout natural communities.

Perhaps more dramatically we have introduced aggressive, non-native species that have greatly altered the landscape. Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight, honeysuckle, buckthorn, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and reed canary grass have profoundly changed hundreds of thousands of acres. Increased nitrogen deposition in rainfall from our dependence on ammonia-based fertilizers, and increased levels of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels have altered even the basic plant nutrient levels in the air and the soil.

What about fire? Even without Native Americans on the land, large fires would still have occasionally occurred. When lightning strikes a hollow tree it can start a fire that may smolder indefinitely. Weather changes, such as a dry windy day could spread the fire, and, once spread, there would have been nothing to stop it except very large rivers and lakes. Without large-scale, occasional fire on the land significant changes can occur.

Due to all these changes, it is safe to say that everything we think of as Nature has been altered by humans. Often these changes are significant. So the question becomes: should we let human-altered Nature take its course?

I spent some time a couple of years ago in Cornwall, England. They have land use practices including grazing, and a woodland management technique called "coppicing," that go back 4,000 years. That was plenty of time for native plants and animals to adapt and thrive in those human-altered conditions.

Due to all these changes, it is safe to say that everything we think of as Nature has been altered by humans.

As land customs and animal husbandry have changed some of the species adapted to the previous type of land use are now endangered. A conservation group in Cornwall is active in bringing back some of those older types of grazing animals and the practice of "coppicing" in order to save their endangered species. If they let Nature take its course those species may become extinct. This is quite a similar situation to what we have.

We can't bring back the passenger pigeon. Wolf or cougar reintroductions are unlikely in the southern part of the state. But we can control deer, bring back fire, get rid of introduced species, and plant and maintain beautiful, highly diverse native prairies, oak savannas, and other native plant communities.

In summary, whether we like it or not, if we don't actively and judiciously manage our land many of our rare native species will be lost. We need to work together and do everything we can to save our precious native plant and animal communities. Along those lines, I thought of an amusing acronym: "Save Ancient Vegetable Animal Native Natural Associations" or SAVANNA! \*

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## Upcoming BMAP Talk: Aliens at our Door—Recent Invasive Insects in Wisconsin

We all know of the impact of non-native plants in our woods and fields, but imagine that each of those plants has potentially 5–20 insects that feed and breed on them. During the last 25 years alone we have seen arthropods such as the deer tick, Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, European earwig, imported long-horned weevil, Elm leaf beetle, multicolored Asian lady beetle, honeysuckle aphid, and soybean aphid move into Wisconsin.

Please join us when Phil Pellitteri, Distinguished Outreach Specialist, Insect Diagnostic Lab, UW–Madison Department of Entomology talks about the biology and impact of these non-native insects on southern Wisconsin's plants and animals.

Mark your calendar now and then join us on Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30 PM. See the Calendar of Events for the meeting location and directions. \*



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## A Forest Is More Than Trees, Part One

Bob Wernerehl, BMAP Ecologist

Since July of 2000 most of our operating budget has come from Forest Stewardship Grants provided by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and the WDNR. These grants have allowed BMAP to work with members, foresters and other professional land managers, and the public on issues of sustainable forest management. In this issue, I'd like to share how the idea for these grants came about and what we've learned during the workshops the grants allowed us to host. In the next issue of the newsletter I'll talk about another aspect of the grant—Ecological Forest Stewardship Plans.

The idea for the grants came about in recognition that many of our members have forested land and timber management concerns. At the same time, I was working on a project with Mark Mittelstadt, a local forester, who pointed out several plants that seemed to benefit from natural and timber management caused openings in the forest canopy. This sparked the realization that our members have the opportunity to do timber management in a way that also benefits light-starved native oak savanna and oak woodland species. With this in mind BMAP wrote two proposals to fund workshops and stewardship plans that would bring together landowners interested in forest management for ecosystem health. We were very fortunate to have both of our proposals accepted.

One of our first activities after receiving the grants was the September 9<sup>th</sup> landowner workshop entitled Managing Woodlands in Southwestern Wisconsin. The workshop was attended by 30 landowners. We spent the morning indoors learning about the history and ecology of southwestern Wisconsin's oak woodlands, basic forestry concepts, timber harvest options, as well as the value of timber.

After lunch the workshop moved to Ruth Kellesvig's farm south of Mt. Horeb. Ruth is restoring a savanna in a woodland area of her farm. We discussed techniques of savanna restoration showing some useful tools and the effects of clearing brush, trees, and weeds. Ruth's energy and dedication impressed everyone. We also walked down into the woods, learned tree identification skills, and discussed the history of the timber stand.

We then traveled to the farm of John Barnes, west of Verona. John's mature stand of tall oaks gave us the opportunity to talk about timber management. At the end of the day we visited the black oak savanna he has been restoring for several years. The carpet of Pennsylvania sedge was very inviting and highlighted the blooming yellow false foxgloves and flax-leaved asters. The beauty of the setting moved us all. In their evaluations, participants described it as "breath taking." Another landowner wrote: "The realization that so little oak savanna remains, and that we might be able to do a successful restoration on our property is absolutely exciting."

Another workshop aimed at professional land managers

and foresters took place September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was held west of Mineral Point on property owned by Mark Mittelstadt. There we saw the effects of good timber management as well as how poor timber management by the previous owner is limiting Mark's options. There are many rare plants at the site, several of which have clearly been favored by selective harvesting. Foresters from the DNR and private firms participated, as did some board members of the Sustainable Woods Cooperative of Spring Green and Lone Rock. One comment in an evaluation afterwards stated "good, free-wheeling discussion at almost every step." The workshop also established a working connection with a national organization called Forest Stewards Guild. This is a group of professional foresters dedicated to preserving ecosystem health while managing large and small timber stands.

The final event was a hands-on workshop on controlling invasive species. Thirteen participants met at Pat Hitchcock's farm near Mt. Vernon and later at member Bruce and Lisa

Wachholz's farm near Verona. We discussed and practiced using many different types of tools and techniques for dealing with aggressive, non-native plants such as a high-output propane

torch that roars with a blue flame and quickly singes the stems of multiflora rose. We had to be careful we didn't start the woods on fire!

Member Dan Bohlin brought a weed wrench, an interesting device that clamps onto the base of shrubs or small saplings. It then becomes a lever-lean back, give a yank, and out comes the plant! Both of these tools allow landowners to remove invasive shrubs without herbicides.

Member Pat Handrick demonstrated another device called a "stem pick." It's a small vial of herbicide that's placed over a freshly cut shrub stem and then left in place so the plant absorbs the herbicide. A rubber seal keeps the herbicide from leaking out.

At the Wachholz farm we used the very impressive "EZ Ject" herbicide lance. This device propels a cartridge into the base of a small tree or shrub. The cartridge contains a dry form of herbicide that is slowly absorbed by the tree, leading to its eventual demise. Thanks to Mike Foy of the DNR and Kurt Waterstradt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for lending their lances.

The purpose of the workshops was to encourage private landowner forest stewardship in the Blue Mounds area. Those participating in the workshops were given the option to go one step further and purchase a subsidized "Ecologically-based Forest Stewardship Plan" for their forest developed by Mark and myself. These plans will provide the landowner with a blueprint for management that also considers non-forestry issues and helps qualify them for additional grants and assistance for implementation. I'll discuss the plans in the next issue. \*

"The realization that so little oak savanna remains, and that we might be able to do a successful restoration on our property is absolutely exciting."

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## Book Review

### **Miracle Under the Oaks: The Revival of Nature in America**

William K. Stevens, 1995, Pocket Books, 332 pages, \$12.00.

The author is a science writer with 25 years experience writing for The New York Times.

This book is primarily about people reviving nature, not about nature reviving itself. It is a highly readable account of the beginnings of the movement for ecological restoration in America.

What makes the book so germane to our area is that it focuses on the work of Steve Packard in nearby northern Illinois. Packard is described by Stevens as a non-conformist with a keen mind for experimentation. Steve Packard was a volunteer helping to revive some small prairie remnants in the northern Chicago area. While trying to make prairie plants grow under spreading bur oaks, he stumbled upon some brand new concepts of oak savanna plants and savanna restoration. The book tells the story of how Packard went on to galvanize a new volunteer stewardship network that harnessed the energies of thousands of people, young and old, to begin to restore hundreds, and eventually thousands, of acres of northern Illinois natural areas.

Packard's savanna work, in the mid-1980s, influenced many Wisconsinites who became key savanna researchers. Packard's approach was very experimental and not well documented, but his work inspired a flurry of scientific inquiries. Here in Wisconsin we really picked-up the ball and were able to give some solid scientific backing to Packard's concepts. Researchers such as Professor Tom Givnish at UW-Madison and Professor Alan Haney at UW-Stevens Point were crucial in this effort. Others include Bill Jordan, Steve Apfelbaum, and Evelyn Howell.

These people in turn influenced Mark Leach, the ecologist for the UW-Arboretum, who spoke to our group last July. The most important link to The Blue Mounds Area Project was that one of our key founders and our first ecologist, Brian Pruka, was a student of Professor Givnish. Pruka's savanna research in our area is what eventually led to The Blue Mounds Area Project. Brian's masters thesis explored some of Packard's concepts.

*Miracle Under the Oaks* is compelling reading, written with a well-paced plot that draws the reader along. Stevens begins by describing the post-glacial evolution of the land in northern Illinois including its native inhabitants. He tells the story of Packard's early days, and weaves in attractive images of the plants and animals making their comeback in the restoration projects.

The book's central section explores other encouraging restoration projects around the country. The book returns to the controversies that arose in northern Illinois such as over-abundant deer, how they've been resolved, and what became of the keystone Vestal Grove savanna restoration project. Also included are some thought-provoking quotes, such as this quote by David Brower: "*We are in the position of lost hikers trying to relocate the last spot at which they still knew where they*

*were; once we get back on track, the idea is not to stand still but to proceed.*"

*Miracle Under the Oaks* is a very inspiring, optimistic book. It makes the reader believe we can accomplish many good things. It makes you want to volunteer, to get involved in restoring a prairie or savanna. For all these reasons, I highly recommend this book. Several of the Madison libraries have a copy. Or, you may want to purchase your own copy for only about \$12. *Bob Wernerehl*

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## Websites of Interest to Conservationists

It is rare to find this many good resources organized at one location. **The Ecological Society of America (ESA)'s education section** provides a gold mine of educational offerings and links. From the online posting of "Experiments to Teach Ecology", to a selection of Ecology 101 materials, to a list of K-16 faculty enhancement projects—and much more, educators will be rewarded by browsing here. Although specific resources vary in content and depth, the cumulative offerings provide a wealth of information and examples to any teachers of ecology. You'll find the site at: <http://www.science.widener.edu/~grant/esa/edweb.html>. \*

**The Extension Toxicology Network.** A "source of objective, science-based information about pesticides—written for non-experts. Has a search/browse option. You'll find the site at: <http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/>.



## Board Meeting Schedule

Your voice is important; this is your organization and we value your input. **Please attend a board meeting:**

- March 6, 6:30 PM, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.
  - April 3, 7:00 PM, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.
  - May 1, 7:00 PM, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb.
- The church is located at 315 E. Main Street in downtown Mt. Horeb. Enter through the back door and go up the half flight of stairs on the left. The front door is handicap accessible.

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## Calendar of Events

### Program and Education Committee

Mike Anderson, Wendell Burkholder

#### 2001 Garden Expo

Feb. 9–11

Alliant Energy Center (Dane Co. Expo Ctr.), Madison

A weekend and a Friday evening of talks, seminars, and exhibits related to gardening and native landscaping. Entrance and parking fees. 608–262–5256.

#### Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc. Annual Meeting

Feb. 10, Saturday, 6 PM

Montrose Town Hall

This is the USRWA's first annual meeting. There will be a keynote talk by Professor Steve Born, a review of 2000's accomplishments, a discussion of the events planned for 2001, displays, door prizes, and the election of the first permanent board of directors. 608–224–3746 or [hartwig@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:hartwig@co.dane.wi.us).

#### Woodland Owners Conference

Feb. 24, Saturday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

American Family Insurance National Headquarters  
Training Center, Hwy. 151 and I90/94, Madison

Talk topics include managing for wildlife, WI ticks and their diseases, forest sustainability, legal issues, elk, bear, timber wolves, and more. Exhibits and vendors. \$25 before Feb. 14, \$30 after, includes continental breakfast, handouts, break snacks, and lunch. 608–224–3718.

#### Plants Out of Place: Invasive Plant Conference for the Upper Midwest

March 2, Saturday, 8:30 AM to 6 PM

Eau Claire

Educational and nonprofit displays, management tools, and commercial vendors. Concurrent sessions on: forest, wetland, and grassland weeds and their control; weed control tips and techniques including using fire, herbicides, and grazing; the importance of public education and how to successfully do it; laws and policy issues; and partnerships and how to find funding and labor. 715–834–9672 or [www.plantsoutofplace.org](http://www.plantsoutofplace.org).

#### The Prairie Enthusiasts 13th Annual Banquet and Prairie Conference

March 2, Friday, and March 3, Saturday

Eau Claire

The banquet, chapter awards and presentations, and fund-raising auctions will be on Friday. The Saturday conference features a Kids Conference, talks on plant and insect interactions, the history of bison and elk in the upper midwest, the secret lives of butterflies, local ecotype issues, a teachers session, knowing and controlling prairie weeds, mycorrhizal fungi in prairies, evaluating remnant quality, and the long term

effects of burning. Always a fun and educational time. 608–375–5271 or [www.prairie.presenter.com](http://www.prairie.presenter.com).

#### Blue Mounds Area Project Annual Meeting What's Your Vision?

March 10, Saturday, 10 AM to Noon

Amcore Bank, downtown Mount Horeb

See page 2 for details on this important meeting.

#### 2001 Native Landscape Conference

March 24, Saturday

Co-sponsored by the UW–Madison Arboretum and the Madison Chapter of the Wild Ones.

Alliant Energy Center, Madison.

This year's conference is entitled "From Wild Spaces to Urban Places: An ECO-opportunity Experience." Conference participants will learn how to create native landscapes with a special emphasis on sustainable landscape plans that improve water quality. New this year, are sessions for land developers, planners, and public officials who are interested in using native plants and sustainable design solutions.

The keynote speaker is Fred Rozumalski, landscape ecologist and winner of last year's national American Society of Landscape Architects award for his work with storm water retention, shoreline restoration, and sustainable landscaping. He is co-author of *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Rozumalski will show participants how aesthetically pleasing, yet ecologically sound, restoration projects can be used to manage storm water in neighborhoods and other landscapes, and to protect lakeshores and wetlands. For more information or a registration form call (608) 263–7888 or visit <http://www.wisc.edu/arboretum> or e-mail [cherylbauer@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:cherylbauer@facstaff.wisc.edu).

#### Aliens at our Door—Recent Invasive Insects in Wisconsin

May 8, Tuesday, 7:30–8:30 PM

Mt. Horeb High School Theater, 305 South 8th St. (Hwy 92)

See page 4 for details on this talk.

**Directions:** From the corner of Main Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Hwy. 92) on the east side of town, go south on 8<sup>th</sup> St. (Hwy. 92) for several blocks. The high school is on the left, just past Garfield St. Use the main entrance, the theatre is immediately to the left after entering.

**Have an event you'd like to list? Mail it to Mike Anderson, 2505 Richardson St., Fitchburg, WI, 53711 or email it to [biologic@chorus.net](mailto:biologic@chorus.net).**

Don't forget to visit your website:  
[www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org).

**Our Mission:**

The Blue Mounds Area Project is a community-based organization that seeks to inspire, inform and empower private landowners in the Southwestern Wisconsin region to enjoy, protect and restore native biodiversity and ecosystem health.

**Our objectives:**

- 1) Promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of native woodlands, prairies, wetlands and savannas and their special species in an economically viable manner, through community outreach programs and private contacts.
- 2) Act as a clearing house for information from people and organizations involved in preserving native biodiversity including information about plant, animal and habitat identification, management, restoration, seed sources, native plant nurseries and invasive, non-native species.
- 3) Encourage cooperative, volunteer restoration and management activities.
- 4) Identify public and private land use changes that may affect ecosystem health and promote community-based stewardship of the unique natural heritage of the Blue Mounds and the Southwestern region of Wisconsin.

| <b>BMAP Board of Directors</b> | <b>Board Members</b> | <b>Staff Ecologist</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| President–Carroll Schaal       | Michael Anderson     | Bob Wernerehl          |
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The Blue Mounds Area Project is sponsored by Community Conservation, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The Blue Mounds Area Project Newsletter is published quarterly. Send your comments, suggestions, submissions, and advertisements to the editor: Michael Anderson, Blue Mounds Area Project, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572.

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## Blue Mounds Area Project Membership Form

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

Renewal.  New member.  I cannot join at this time, please keep me on your mailing list.

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:**

General (individual or family) \$25.00 / Year \_\_\_\_\_

Student/limited income (individual or family) \$15.00 / Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Other contribution to further the BMAP mission** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law\*\***

**SITE VISIT REQUEST:**

Check if you would like to receive a site visit from the BMAP ecologist (we will contact you for additional information and to arrange the visit).

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND RETURN TO:**  
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT, PO BOX 332, MT. HOREB, WI 53572

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**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful ly committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

**–Margaret Mead**

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The Blue Mounds Area Project  
PO Box 332  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

**TIME TO RENEW??**

Please check the address label for your membership expiration date.  
If you’re receiving a complimentary copy, please consider joining.