The Blue Mounds Area Project

Seeking to Inspire, Inform and Empower Private Landowners in the Southwestern Region Of Wisconsin to Enjoy, Protect and Restore Native Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

Established in 1995

Celebrating BMAP's history with throwback newsletter head and logo.

20th Anniversary!

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BMAP History Part One – The Formative Years
(Or what do monkeys and savannas have in common?)

Carroll Schaal, BMAP board member

The Blue Mounds Area Project had its origins around March of 1995. My involvement began in early 1996. I was new in town and responded to an article in the *Mt. Horeb Mail* about a community conservation project that was looking for local input. I attended a meeting. Little did I know how many meetings I would eventually attend.

I learned that the "project" was a proposal for an "ecological extension program" building off local interest in UW graduate student Brian Pruka's savanna research north of Blue Mounds. He had cataloged over 400 plant species providing an index of potential savanna diversity for our portion of the Driftless Area. Neighboring landowners heard about his studies and he visited some of their properties which they found very enlightening. Out of their strong interest the Blue Mounds Project was born!

Brian wrote a prospectus with input from local conservationists. He partnered with Dr. Rob Horwich of Community Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCC) in Gays Mills, Wisconsin to have CCC sponsor grant applications on the Project's behalf. An Advisory Board was formed in March of 1996 to guide the Project; that board consisted of me, Rob and Ursula Peterson, and a specialist with the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection where Brian also worked. We held meetings in the old Mt Horeb Library. In April we received our first award for $17,250 from the WI Environmental Education Board to fund Brian to do ecological site visits with private landowners and conduct community outreach in native biodiversity management focused on the oak savanna landscape. Members donated $2,265 and additional funding came from the Mt Horeb Community Foundation.

Brian began a newsletter called *The Land Doctor* and wrote a column for the local papers called *Your Wild Neighbors*. The Species Inventory Program, or site visits, was initiated and much enthusiasm ensued. We held Historical Aerial Photo Workshops in the winter of 1997 for landowners to see what their property looked like in the 1930's. By August of 1997 we noted our 50th landowner site visit and welcomed our 80th member.

Brian was an energetic leader and always had new ideas for outreach and building the organization. He devoted a tremendous amount of time to the establishment of what was then known as just the Blue Mounds Project. However, in late 1997 finances and the Advisory Board weren't keeping pace with Brian and in frustration he resigned. It looked like the Project might end.

In the ensuing limbo, CCC received word that additional grants Brian had submitted to the Laid Norton Foundation and the Madison Community Foundation had been awarded. In 1998 the Advisory Board reconvened along with some new members to try to keep the Project moving forward. An Interim Board of Directors formed that included Dean Lesser, President; Carroll Schaal, Vice President; Nancy Pfotenhauer, Secretary; Jim Zerwick, Treasurer and Marie Wilhelm, Meeting Organizer. Rob Horwich was listed as Senior Advisor. Other early directors included Mike Anderson, Wendell Burkholder, Mary Fritz, Jon Lyon, Ursula Petersen, Bob Wernerehl, and Mary Skupniewitz. Robert Wernerehl was hired as the Ecologist and we began the site visits and outreach again. Mike Anderson agreed to edit and publish the newsletter. The Project was resurrected!

As Ecologist, Bob put his stamp on the organization, establishing many of the activities like winter lectures, summer tours and the Bur Oak award that still make up our core work today. The Project continued to evolve and thanks to Bob's grant writing, we had stable part-time funding for several years. Thirty-seven site visits representing a total of 4,310 acres were reported in 1998. More than a third of the sites visited had prairie remnants and almost 50 percent had oak savanna remnants. In 1999 three landowners who had site visits were awarded over $16,000

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President's Message

by Paul Ohlrogge, BMAP Board President

Greetings from the Blue Mounds Area Project Board of Directors!

Hopefully, between summer vacations and other running around, more than a few of you were paid a site visit by Amy Alstad, BMAP's ecologist. As you'll read in the Ecologist's Report, she's been very busy expanding the reaches of the Blue Mounds Project. And in case you missed it, over 50 people attended our first summer picnic and outing at Eddie and Eric Goplin's place on Erbe road. What a wonderful prairie! Our second summer event is happening as we put together this newsletter. It will be at Dave and Alice Wilken's place; I know this spot really well. I drive by their restored prairie every morning and afternoon as I go to and from work. The spiderwort this year has been so beautiful — the brightest of blues.

Our membership is holding steady. Renewals (check your mailing label for expiration) and new memberships trickle in even though we haven't given it any special effort…yet. Some kind of a membership campaign may be on the horizon though I believe word of mouth is the best seller of BMAP. Please share our organization with other folks who might be interested.

We have achieved our goal of seven active board members. We have two great additions — Anna Healy and Erin Holmes. Greet them when you see them. They both add so much to our work. We are a working board and we are exploring an idea of having a planning day with BMAP members on how we can continue to be relevant, offer great programs and increase our visibility. One personal vision is to have a BMAP Executive Director. This would be new but something to think about. If you would like to be involved in the planning effort for the future of BMAP please contact Amy or any board member at info@bluemounds.org. We want your input.

Please check the event listing for opportunities approaching this fall. We have an exciting walk planned from Blue Mounds State park to Brigham Park all on properties in permanent easements. Mark your calendars for the seed propagation and seed collection workshops; these have been highly valued the past two years.

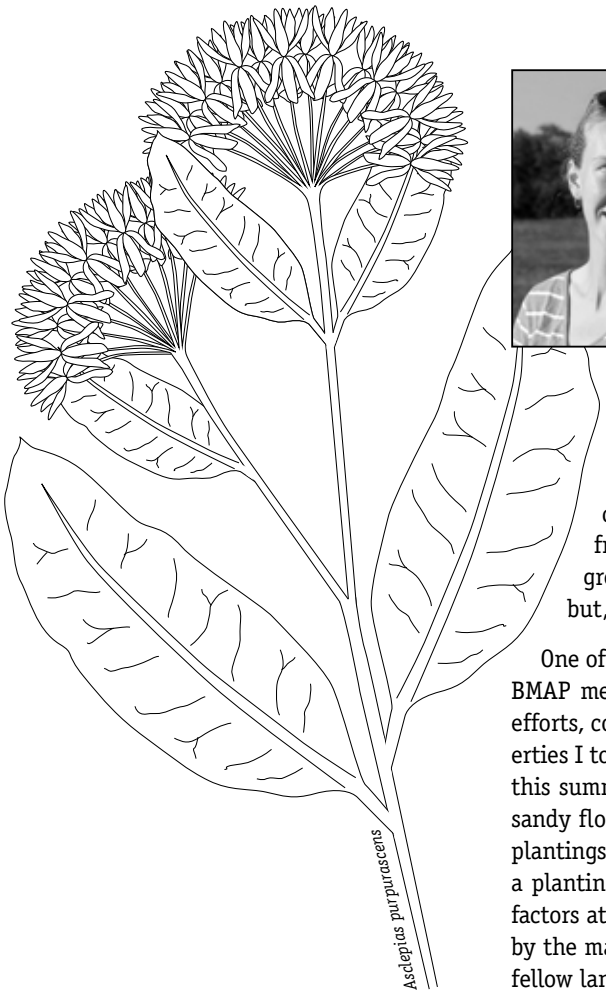
I love summer and the changing of the green colors in our grasslands. I have learned a lot the past several years and am anxious to continue my learning. Lifelong learning is a special thing -not to be taken for granted! I look forward to future conversations with all of you.

Ecologist's Report

Amy Alstad, BMAP ecologist — June 27, 2016

As this newsletter goes to press, I have done 11 site visits on BMAP member properties this season, totaling 490 acres. Two of these were return visits to properties where landowners had previously worked with one of the former BMAP ecologists and were ready to check back in for an evaluation of progress and a discussion of next steps. With several more visits on the calendar yet this year, I am on track to cover more properties and more acreage than I did in 2015 — my first year as BMAP Outreach Ecologist.

A notable highlight of the visits this season was documenting a healthy population of purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) at a property in Vermont Township. This is a state endangered species, which tolerates a wide range of soil moisture, and is most often found in open oak woodlands. It superficially resembles its close relative, common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), although the intense purple color of the flowers and the smooth surface the seed pods make it easy to distinguish from its common cousin when flowers or seed pods are present. Purple milkweed is a great candidate for native gardens, because it is attractive to a wide range of pollinators but, unlike common milkweed which spreads prolifically, it does not spread by rhizome.



One of my favorite things about this position is that no two visits are exactly the same. While BMAP members share many of the same challenges – such as how to prioritize management efforts, combat the spread of invasive species, and nurture healthy native ecosystems – the properties I tour and the landowners I connect with are extremely diverse. The properties I've visited this summer range from 2 to 200 acres, from urban to rural, and from open sedge meadows to sandy floodplain to dry upland forests. Some people are seeking management advice on prairie plantings that are nearing 20 years old, while others are waiting to see what comes up from a planting done in November of last year. As a scientist, I am fascinated by all the ecological factors at play in determining the health of an ecosystem. As a conservationist, I am heartened by the many people working hard to protect the biodiversity of Southwest Wisconsin. And as a fellow landowner, I am proud to know I am in such good company. I salute you all!

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Paul Ohlrogge, BMAP President and Carroll Schaal, BMAP Board of Directors

Landowner Assistance

Amy Alstad, BMAP Ecologist, conducted 14 site visits totaling 575 acres of oak woodland, savanna and prairies. All but one was a first time visit. That brings the total to over 210 site visits on more than 18,500 acres since BMAP first began offering the service in the mid '90s. Our Ecologist work continues to get rave reviews from BMAP members.

We have continued to aggressively distribute our publication *Reading the Driftless Landscape*. We worked with area realtors and asked them to distribute (10 copies each) to new landowners who may have an interest in an ecologist visit.

Community Outreach

BMAP held four Winter Conservation Conversations series:

January, 2015 – Patrick (PJ) Liesch, manager of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab, shared recent trends with pollinators and what homeowners can do to protect and encourage these important beneficial creatures.

February, 2015 - Eric Carson of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey provided history of the Lower Wisconsin River Valley. A series of geologic features indicates the lower Wisconsin River valley was carved by a river flowing east, in the opposite direction of the modern river. This river, informally referred to as the Wyalusing River, drained the entire area of the modern Wisconsin and upper Mississippi Rivers into the St. Lawrence drainage basin.

February, 2015 - Heather Kaarakka, Conservation Biologist, Wisconsin DNR from the Natural Heritage Conservation group presented information about the bats in Wisconsin's Driftless Area. She discussed the DNR's monitoring efforts and research, the tremendous help provided by citizen monitors, and the status of White Nose Syndrome in the state.

March, 2015 - Rich Henderson, plant ecologist with Wisconsin DNR, shared his extensive knowledge of shrub identification including tips on how to distinguish the "good" (natives) from the "bad" (invasive non-natives).

A comprehensive seed collection workshop was offered in the fall and a seed propagation workshop was our final landowner workshop of the year. Thanks to John Barnes and James MacDonald who lent their expertise and the Prairie Spirit Wildlife Sanctuary which provided great indoor facilities for learning and abundance for seed collection.

BMAP celebrated with The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) and nearly 50 people who attended the October dedication of the Parrish Oak Savanna as a new TPE preserve and State Natural Area on County F in the Town of Vermont. A number of BMAP members attended this special day. Parrish is a biologically diverse 29-acre remnant of original oak savanna located in the Driftless Area near Blue Mounds. This is the site where BMAP started 20 years ago.

Finances

We are doing quite well financially, though as a board of directors we always want to do better. Our income is down a little over the past two years but we have solid membership renewals and some timely anonymous donations. Roughly three-quarters of our expenses are directly related to ecologist's salary and community outreach. We are reducing some expenses by doing away with our phone line and going to a nearly free phone number.

BMAP Financial Summary
January through December 2015

Ordinary Income/Expense

INCOME	**2015**	**2014**
Membership	$6,232	$6,209
Donations	$5,326	$8,534
Grants	$0	$2,000
Events	$1,625	$0
Sales	$1,100	$833
Total INCOME	**$14,283**	**$17,576**
EXPENSE		
Ecologist	$4,634	$8,028
Office/Insur/Supply	$1,274	$1,825
Rent	$0	$1,680
Postage/Printing	$856	$1,391
Events	$679	$820
Total EXPENSE	**$7,443**	**$13,744**

Volunteers

BMAP membership grew 15% and is at an all time high of 147 paid members. $30 is the cost of basic membership but 34 members donate at or above $100. This year's spike was thanks to a $5,000 anonymous donation from a long-time member. The date of your last renewal is printed on your mailing label next to your name. You can also renew on our website using a credit card and PayPal.

Board of Directors

We are an active, working board of directors. We put a lot of time into making sure things run smoothly. Our focus is for Amy Alstad, our ecologist, to be working with BMAP landowners on property concerns and not spending time on database entries.

Michael Schmitz resigned from the board and we miss Michael's energy and contagious laughter. He remains a strong supporter of BMAP.

Paul Kaarakka also resigned from the board this past winter. We knew this was coming but tried to delay the inevitable as long we could. We recognized Paul this past March at our Annual Meeting for his energy, dedication and belief in the work of BMAP. He has been a strong supporter and an exemplary board member.

James MacDonald is courageously taking over some of Paul's old duties. James brings a lot of ideas and has encouraged BMAP to look at new educational opportunities.

Paul Ohlrogge is the president of the board. How did that happen? He is local landowner and a UW-Extension Agent in Iowa County. He works on natural resource outreach in SW-WI.

Carroll Schaal has stepped away from the board president position which he held for over a decade. Carroll serves as the Treasurer and his institutional knowledge is appreciated.

David Cordray of Environmental Returns LLC, an ecological restoration company, joined the board and is a great writer and very knowledgeable about issues facing land owners.

Mike Anderson, a board member from years past has returned to serve on the BMAP board. It is great to have Mike back!!!

Anna Healy joined the board this past winter and has been active since she joined. We hear a lot of stories about her home farm.

Erin Holmes is also a new board member. Erin is a Senior Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever in SW-WI. Erin knows many land owners and has expertise with the cost share programs.

BMAP Summer Tour – Goplin Prairie

David Cordray, BMAP board member

Eddie Goplin and David Cordray (front)

The adult cottontail rabbit made its way across the shaded lawn in a calm, half-hop gait. As a highly sought-after prey species, it takes knowledge of predators and mastery of the environment to live to maturity. As the rabbit paused, its panoramic vision caught movement from above. An unknown aerial predator swooped down and just as quickly, swooped away. The rabbit froze; you can almost hear its thoughts: "What the #$%& was that?" What it was, as Erik Goplin continued with the story, was a long-eared owl.

Hearing Erik's long-eared owl story as we parked cars for the first 2016 BMAP Summer tour, I was eager to see more of Eddie and Cheryl Goplin's property. About 40 others joined me June 16 on their 110 acres, off of Erbe road near the town of Blue Mounds.

According to the WI DNR, the long-eared owl is an at-risk species that requires dense woody areas, such as young pine plantations next to open grasslands. The Goplin's acres of former pasture, prairie remnants and tillable land (approximately 35 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)) provide habitat for the owl. The Goplins bought the land in 1964 and raised beef cattle. Their 99-acres sits just south of The Prairie Enthusiasts' (TPE) Erbe Grasslands.

Eddie and Cheryl's son, Erik, gave us the property history and led the evening tour. We started at the garage/driveway area and immediately climbed up a narrow trail through dense pines. As we were climbing, Eddie shared that Erik, while in high school, collected prairie seed from local remnants and planted a small area. Time passed, and one day while Erik was home from college, they revisited their planting and found prairie plants intermingled with the weeds. This was the catalyst propelling their interest further into prairies. Since then, Eddie said, they have received help from many programs and groups, such as Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), CRP and TPE.

I couldn't help but wonder what unique abilities allowed Erik to notice the relic prairie plants, which to most would pass for just another weed in the pasture. Certainly not the pastime of the typical teenage boy!

As we broke out of the pines into the open, I immediately heard a dickcissel calling to my right (north) followed by an eastern meadowlark to the southwest. We were up high now, and the two prominent bedrock hills of Blue Mounds loomed over us to the northwest. Just in front of us, looking west, Erik showed us their oldest planting (1987), former crop land that was sprayed out and then seeded. North of that was an old pasture they had interseeded. My eyes quickly danced from one marbleseed plant to the next. As we walked north through the interseeded pasture, Erik explained their management included collecting local seeds, interseeding, and burning. They have a joint management agreement with TPE, and they manage by burning larger units less frequently. They have fire-sensitive insects such as the regal fritillary butterfly and red-tailed leafhopper.

Continuing north on a rather steep descent, we entered the first prairie remnant. I saw silky asters and prairie clovers. Erik said they don't believe the remnants were ever herbicide sprayed because they have uncommon species such as pasque flower, prairie turnip, marbleseed and woolly milkweed. As folks lingered at the remnant, pointing out unique plants, I was listening to a Henslow's sparrow softly calling from the east.

We passed over the old moldboard dead furrow, or plow line, and entered the upslope of the valley. Roughly 70 feet in elevation below where we began at the 1987 planted prairie, Erik paused to explain how he is introducing

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Eric Goplin talking about the project.

Wilken Summer Tour

David Cordray, BMAP board member

David Wilken looked up into the sky and said: "I can see my Dad in heaven looking down on me and saying 'Son, what are you doing planting prairies?'" David's Dad, who died at 101, labored tirelessly plowing Illinois prairie sod with horses to create farmland used to support their family. And now, decades later, David is converting farm land back to prairies!

"We loved each other very much," David continued, "but occasionally we had disagreement."

More than 40 people gathered July 14 for the second BMAP Summer 2016 tour at David Wilken and Alice Jungemann's 15-acre property off County Road F in Blue Mounds. David began the event with history on his father and background on how he planted his Wisconsin prairies.

"I made every mistake possible" he said. He gave examples of meticulously picking up all the rocks in the planting area before he asked himself, why? He spent hours pulling shepard's purse before realizing it would be outcompeted naturally as the prairie plants matured. He tenaciously pulled Canada thistle with no positive results until he switched to using an herbicide.

David began a group tour at his first 1.5-acre prairie, a long and narrow strip of land sandwiched between their house area and County Road F; it was planted in 1996. David used an ATV with a small boom sprayer to herbicide existing vegetation, had the neighbor drag it with a harrow, and hand broadcasted a mixture of sawdust and seed. The seed came from Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary, where David volunteered as a land steward, and from local collection. As we trekked around the perimeter of the weed-free prairie, many favorites like compass plant, rattlesnake master and Culver's root were in full bloom. David spotted a Queen Anne's lace plant and proclaimed that it, as well as any daisy fleabane plants, would be gone by tomorrow.

The tour made it back to the driveway, cut into the wooded area and took a narrow foot trail switchback up a steep ridge. We passed a series of small rock outcroppings before intersecting with an old field road that led to the upper prairie. There we observed many open oak woodland and savanna plant species such as elm-leaved goldenrod, lupine, tall anemone, poke milkweed, bloodroot and sweet (woodland) joe pye weed.

Once leaving the woodland and topping out on the ridge, we arrived at the second 4-acre planting. Another weed-free prairie roughly square in shape surrounded by woodland on three sides and a corn field to the west. David explained that this prairie was planted in 1998 by broadcasting seed over soybean stubble. Big bluestem was in flower along with many other lovely species, most of which were on a species list David handed out at the start of the tour. As we traveled along the prairie's west edge on a narrow path separating prairie from7-foot tall corn many of us pondered out loud our amazement of no apparent herbicide drift damage to the prairie.

Once on the south side, we get our first look at Parish Savanna, which was recently acquired by The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE). Signs of recent management activities are apparent - evidence of the land stewardship muscle of TPE. How nice that David and Alice have neighbors that share similar land ethic!

As we travel down the field road back to the house for dinner and conversation, I feel privileged to once again tour a new property with passionate landowners and spend time with others who share my love of Wisconsin's prairies and woodlands. I eagerly look forward to the next!

Bur Oak Award Meet the Artist

James MacDonald, BMAP board member

The Bur Oak awards that BMAP presents each year are universally admired but few have met the man who makes them. They are made by a Driftless Area artist and craftsman named Dave Chaffee. Dave has deep ties with the Driftless Area. He lives in and grew up in Blanchardville where his father had a metal fabrication shop. Dave comes from a family of artists; his mother does stained glass, his wife does mosaics, his daughter paints, and his uncle Robert Ruck is a nationally known guitar builder. It was as a teenager, spending time with his uncle that he first developed his love for wood. Dave says, "In my uncle's shop and home you could always smell and feel the beautiful wood he worked with."

Dave has worked for decades as a highly skilled welder. He works in all kinds of metal. He also does metal sculpture fabrication like the large installation in front of the Fort Atkinson Library. However, he will tell you, "I work with metal but my heart is with wood". The wood he uses to craft BMAP's Bur Oak awards comes from trees he has cut and cured himself. He knows these trees and the Driftless region well from many years of rambling and hunting through fields and forests. You can see his love for wood and for the land in these awards. We are lucky to have an artist whose sense of stewardship and sensitivity to the land exemplify the very reasons we give the Bur Oak award.

Seed Sourcing for Restoration in a Changing Climate

Marci Hess, BMAP newsletter editor

I had the opportunity to attend a Seed Sourcing Symposium at the Chicago Botanic Gardens on June 13. It was an important meeting and just the beginning of a very important discussion. The meeting moved from historical aspects of seed sourcing to current day projects to needed future actions. As promised, the day led to more questions than answers. I was surprised to learn organizations, government entities, and large institutions were focusing and directing resources to this topic. I'll provide some highlights from the speakers. Here's a link to a paper with indepth information on this topic. http://www.driftlessprairies.org/ecological-restoration/native-seed-plant-sourcing.

Seed sourcing is the process of deciding which native seeds or plants will germinate and survive where you are planting them.

Commercial native seed companies were represented. They expressed a need for scientific evaluation of seed genetics. At present, their source identification is on the honor system. Native seed is not sold based on genetic standards; it is seed collected from native populations where no genetic testing of parent material has been conducted. It was emphasized that we are not able to genetically pinpoint a species. There is no historical genetic data on plants. We know genetic material is moved about via insects; we also know it is moved by bacteria and fungi.

Jack Pizzo, a commercial seed producer, used the analogy of Dr. Frankenstein to describe our current restoration practices. We take all these disparate parts with huge variability and put them together to recreate an ecosystem. These puzzle pieces are not static nor are they well studied. What is science and what is opinion when specifications of provenance for projects are written for commercial suppliers? Supply and demand must be considered. Is the demand for certain provenance, which may or may not be "genetically appropriate" keeping up with the economic realities?

Latitude is an important component of ecologically-relevant seeds, especially as we consider climate change, which cannot be ignored.

Historically, the native seed zones were created to limit movement of seeds; the goal was to prevent genetic maladaptation. When compared to current climate data, the 1960-1990 data used to create these maps is showing measurable differences. Climate change is happening quicker than we expect. The result is expected to be increases in extremes; for example, heat waves are expected to increase by 60% and increase in duration. Perhaps we need dynamic seed zones rather than the current static ones. Some work has been done to create provisional seed zones for the western part of the U.S.

What used to be "how local is local" has changed to "is local still local." Speakers stressed the need to think ecologically when choosing species and sources. Latitude is an important component of ecologically-relevant seeds, especially as we consider climate change, which cannot be ignored.

Can we rely on adaptive evolution to rescue our wild populations from climate change? Can pollinators keep up with flowering evolution? Research is being done using trees in the northwest but we were cautioned that one species example cannot be extrapolated to another.

A couple of presenters encouraged folks to "poke holes" in current practices. Not as a way to negatively criticize but as a way to "make it better." Playing devil's advocate and rethinking restoration practices is imperative and should be encouraged. Nature isn't static. Nature doesn't have a rote schedule. Neither should we.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has established a National Seed Strategy for Rehabialition and Restoration; the success of this is based on "a nationwide network of native seed collectors"—from private individuals to organizations. The ultimate goal is to preserve our native seed stock and develop driven seed zones for each plant and tree which can be used for seed transfer. Our current use of serendipity rather than strategy backed with scientific evidence will not create resilient ecosystems. "We need the same forward-thinking management we demand for other natural resources such as timber and oil," states Peggy Olwell, BLM.

While the BLM has initiated the first steps to preserve and protect our native seed sources, they readily admit that making sure the "right seed is in the right place at the right time" is the responsibility of the practitioner. And gaps in getting the information from the scientific community to the practitioner cannot be denied.

Projects already initiated:

- Natural Selections - http://www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/natural-selections
- Prairie on Farms - http://www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/prairie-farms
- National Seed Strategy - http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/more/CPNPP/0/seedstrategy.html
- Seed Zone Summit – The northeastern area of the Forest Service will be holding this summit in 2017 to develop seed zones, develop guidelines for their use, and define terminology. The date and location are to be determined.
- Nature Serve has created a Climate Change Vulnerability Index to identify plants and animals most vulnerable to climate change http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/climate-change-vulnerability-index

Some needs that were discussed:

- Commercial seed producers need to unite and create a native seed organization that represents the interests of those producing, sourcing, and planting native seeds. At present, there is no political voice or educational component for this industry.
- We need direct funding for plants in our federal, state, and local budget. The BLM has no direct funding for plants at present.
- We need educational forums to connect the science to the practitioner. This is often lamented in restoration but was specifically noted with regard to seed sourcing and understanding of "genetically appropriate" plant materials.

Building a Brush Pile
(that will burn)

James MacDonald, BMAP board member

We all build brush piles. It seems easy. You just throw the stuff together in a pile — branches, small logs, honeysuckle, buckthorn, etc. But sometimes the pile that was easy to build is not so easy to burn. This is especially true in mid-winter when snow cover makes burning the pile both safe and simple. People will say, "Well, just use more gasoline. That'll do it." Gasoline is explosive and should never be used by itself, but even if you use a lot of torch fuel a poorly built brush pile may go out again and again.

The simple trick to a good brush pile is density. The denser the pile, the better it burns. Remember the fire triangle – fuel, heat, oxygen; these are the three things necessary for a fire to burn. In a brush pile the heat from one piece of fuel must ignite the next until the whole pile is burning. Oxygen is rarely a problem in a dry brush pile but if the fuel is too loosely stacked the wood may be too far apart. Then each piece will not start the next, the fire will not carry through the pile, and it goes out. Winter compounds this problem because there is less ambient heat. In winter one person can safely burn a huge brush pile that has been covered by a tarp with no more equipment than a pitchfork, but not if it won't stay lit.

The solution is simple. Instead of piling things helter-skelter pile all the branches so they are parallel. This brings the fuel closer together. Sometimes side branches will need to be lopped off so they can also be parallel. If you put the heavy things on top the pile will compress becoming even denser. This brush pile will burn.

Editor's note: Outdoor burning in Wisconsin is regulated; check with the DNR for any permit requirements in your county. Fuel for brush piles can be mixed at a 4:1 or 3:1 ratio of diesel to gasoline.

Choosing Herbicides

Marci Hess, BMAP newsletter editor

There's a lot of herbicides on the market today. Many are the same chemical with a different brand name, or a combination of familiar ones, and many target the same plants. How does one decide which herbicide to use?

There are various methods used to classify herbicides. Sometimes they are classified by their mode of action or their selectivity; other times they are lumped into broad chemical categories.

When I'm making herbicide decisions, talking with others as well as my distributor is very helpful. But it's important to do your own research. What plant are you targeting? Are you wanting to use this herbicide for more than one type of plant? Is the target plant herbaceous or woody? Do you want a foliar application, stump application, or basal application? Will you be doing the work in the growing season or in winter?

Aside from the basic questions listed above, I research a few other key aspects, such as soil residual, toxicity, and the chemical's mode of action. I do a simple google search of the brand or type of herbicide. I read the label and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and I request a copy of the Technical Bulletin from the company representative before making the purchase. I have a "checklist" of important considerations that I want answered. Those items are listed and explained below.

Soil Residual of the Chemicals

Soil residual is known as the "half life" of the chemical in the soil. It is how long it takes the original amount to be degraded by half in the soil. Generally, the manufacturer of the herbicide will provide a time range or an average length of time because their testing is done in a laboratory setting but the response of the herbicide is highly dependent upon environmental conditions. Some things to consider:

- The half-life is longer in dry than moist soil.
- Leaching is more likely in wet soils but this doesn't mean the herbicide will leach. Herbicides bind themselves to solids in a process known as adsorption. Water competes with these binding sites making more herbicide free to be leached from the soil. Adsorption or water solubility is measured as a K_{oc} value. The higher the K_{oc} value, the more tightly the herbicide binds to soil making it less mobile. California uses 1900mL/g as their minimum allowable K_{oc} value; anything lower would be more likely to leach into the groundwater. Keep in mind, this value must be coupled with environmental conditions already discussed to have real meaning.
- What is the soil pH? There are several factors to consider with soil pH. pH below 7 is more acidic and provides fewer sites for binding. pH also affects how many and which microbes are present in the soil. Microbes are essential; they are responsible for degrading most of the herbicide.
- What is the texture of the soil? Adsorption is greater in finely textured soils and soil high in organic matter leading to a longer persistence than coarsely-textured soil or soil low in humus.

Toxicity

The EPA tests for lethal doses to various non-target biota. They look at the effects of a particular herbicide on mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates. You can search by chemical or brand name at the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) website. (http://www.pesticideinfo.org)

The other aspect of toxicity to consider is the lethal dose (LD_{50}) and lethal concentration (LC_{50}) amount. LD_{50} measures what amount is required to kill 50% of a test population. It is measured in mg of chemical to kg of body weight. For example, Milestone's LD_{50} in rats is 5000 mg/kg. The popular mosquito repellent Deet has a LD_{50} of 1800 mg/kg in rats. Which one would you rather have on your skin? LC_{50} measures the amount required per volume of air or water to kill 50% of a test population; this is expressed as mg per liter (mg/L). The values of LC_{50} range from 10 being extremely toxic to 100,000 being relatively harmless if breathed in or ingested; these values are not correlated to humans but rather they are used to determine toxicity in other species such as fish or honeybees.

cont. page 8, see HERBICIDES

For a thorough explanation of how toxicity is described and defined on labels, the National Pesticide Information Center has a fact sheet on Signal Words. (http://www.npic.orst.edu/factsheets/signalwords.pdf)

How the Chemical Effects the Plant

Most of the herbicides I deal with in restoration work are systemic, meaning they translocate to another part of the plant by the xylem or phloem – the target kill spot. Contrast this to contact herbicides, such as vinegar, which simply topkills because it does not translocate to the roots.

Mode of action is one way to classify herbicide although I prefer to know both the mode of action and the selectivity. Selectivity is based on what the herbicide targets (i.e. broadleaf, grass, nonselective) or can be based on postemergence or preemergence. I don't use preemergence because it affects seed germination and often is not selective.

Mode of Action is classified in the following ways with the first 3 being the most common:

- Growth Regulators – These are the most common. They mimic a plant growth hormone known as auxin, which is responsible for cell elongation. This herbicide upsets the natural hormone balance but not by any single factor, but rather a cascading effect because of the disruption. The soil pH has little influence on this category of herbicides. This is what is commonly used. Examples include triclopyr and aminopyralid.
- Amino Acid Synthesis Inhibitors – The second most common.These inhibit the production of the ALS enzyme with is an essential amino acid for producing new cells. If the pH in the soil is low, there can be a long residual effect. An example is metsulfuron.
- Lipid Synthesis Inhibitors – These are the grass-specific herbicides, which specifically translocate to the meristem and prevents the productions of lipids. The result is no new cell production. Examples are fluazifop, clethodim, sethoxydim.
- Cell Membrane Disrupters – These herbicides cause cell membranes to rupture. These are not ones I use because they are very persistent in the soil and can cause respiratory health problems to humans. Examples of this ar paraquat or lactofen.
- Nitrogen Metabolism Inhibitors – This herbicide inhibits an enzyme which allows the plant to convert the microbial-created ammonia formulations into nitrogen. The only example I found of this is glufosinate.
- Pigment Inhibitors – These inhibit chlorophyll production. Another herbicide I seldom use because it is restricted to coarse textured soils. An example is clomazone or isoxaflutole.
- Photosynthetic inhibitors – There are three types and they disrupt photosynthesis in different ways. These are applied to the soil, have long persistence, and can leach into the groundwater. One example is atrazine.

Cost

Calculating costs can be complicated because it's not just about the actual financial outlay. It's about effectiveness, too. If the financial costs is lower but I have to use it two or three times for it to be effective, this changes the dollars and cents of it as well as the environmental costs. Like everyone else, I have precious little time, I want what is most effective. Yet, I'm unwilling to purchase the cheapest herbicide if it has negative environmental impact or known human health issues. Granted, all herbicides should be "treated with respect," concerns can be mitigated through proper use and handling but there are a few with more concerns regardless of the proper handling (i.e. 2,4-D, atrazine).

Do your research on the herbicide then do the calculations on a per ounce cost. If the environmental and health issues are equal, it does what you need, then the per-ounce cost might be the deciding factor. If you don't have access to a storage area that doesn't freeze, consider an herbicide in a granular form.

Storage and Cleaning

Always keep your herbicides in their original container with the label attached. Storing any mixed herbicide longer than the growing season will lose potency and effectiveness. Allowing liquid herbicide to freeze is not a good idea as freezing can change the chemical structure, resulting is less effectiveness.

Be sure to clean any spray equipment when you are finished with it and when changing herbicides. Cleaning is best done with an herbicide neutralizer and cleaner making sure to rinse containers three times. I apply the diluted rinse water to the edges of our gravel driveway. If this type of application isn't an option, consider keeping the rinse water in containers and using as your dilution for the next time you mix.

Surfactant or adjuvant

Some other aspects to consider are whether to use a surfactant or adjuvant. These increase the effectiveness of the herbicide to disperse more thoroughly across the leaf when foliar spraying rather than bead up and roll off; some allow for easier penetration into the leaf. Knowing the physiology of the target plants helps with understanding this. If the leaf is waxy or pubescent (hairy), using the herbicide without a surfactant could diminish its ability to penetrate and reach the target location to kill it.

A few other considerations

All herbicides are photosensitive to some degree. There's little one can do about this once it's on the plant because even on cloudy days, there is exposure to UV rays. For those herbicides that are more photosensitive, I do not store mixed chemicals, but rather I mix them immediately prior to application and make sure they are in opaque applicators. The original herbicide is kept out of areas exposed to sunlight.

Keep an eye on the weather. You don't want it to rain immediately following herbicide application as that could reduce the effectiveness and could increase the ability of the herbicide to leach into the groundwater. Check the weather and check the rainfast chart. Sims Fertilizer and Chemical provides a rainfast chart http://www.simsfarm.com/images/E0162301/Rain_Free_Chart[2].pdf as does North Carolina State Cooperative Extension.

https://craven.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/RAINFAST-2012.pdf?fwd=no.

The volatility or vapor pressure of an herbicide's active ingredient(s) is required by EPA. For granular herbicides this would not apply until they were mixed. Information on the volatility is best found in Technical Bulletins. These are not the same as the label or the SDS. Technical bulletins are written

cont. page 9, see HERBICIDES

Using Adjuvants (additives) to Maximize Herbicide Effectiveness

David Cordray, BMAP board member

Herbicides are expensive. Invasive weeds are everywhere, and your available time to go after them is in short supply. We also can't always choose the ideal time to apply herbicides. Our schedule, prolonged periods of dry weather, hot weather, low humidity, cold weather, high winds, large plants, impending rain, etc., may require us to apply herbicides in less-than-ideal conditions. The best bet for increasing the effectiveness of your herbicide application,during a broader range of environmental conditions, is to use adjuvants.

...when spraying invasive weeds mixed with nearby good plants, we want our herbicide solution to stick to the target plant, quickly absorb into the leaf tissue, kill the weed, and minimize depositing any herbicide onto good plants.

An adjuvant is a substance you add to the spray tank mixture, or it may already be integrated into the manufacturer's herbicide formulation, with the goal to improve herbicidal activity or application characteristics. Adjuvants can improve herbicide performance by influencing a number of factors involved in herbicide absorption and spray applications. Some of these factors include conditioning the water, dissolving the waxy coating on a leaf surface for better penetration, spreading on the leaf surface for better area coverage, sticking to the leaf surfaceto avoidspray droplet bounce off, and minimizing small droplet formation for spray drift reduction. For example, when spraying invasive weeds mixed with nearby good plants, we want our herbicide solution to stick to the target plant, quickly absorb into the leaf tissue, kill the weed, and minimize depositing any herbicide onto good plants.

The world of adjuvants is confusing. There are a wide variety to choose from, and they are not regulated by the EPA. The most effective adjuvant will vary with each herbicide, and the need for an adjuvant will vary with environment, weeds, and herbicide used.

How to know what to use? No worries! Like any good restoration practitioner, you read the herbicide label! The label will tell you what type or types of adjuvants to use, how much, and how to mix it in the spray solution. Keep in mind that the label may recommend different concentrations of adjuvants with different plant species, as well as different growth stages of the plant. Using adjuvants beyond labeled rates may cause damage to non-target plants.

Adjuvants generally consist of surfactants, oils and fertilizer. One of the more common adjuvants recommended by many of the herbicides we use is a non-ionic surfactant (NIS). The term non-ionic means it does not have an electrical charge and will not interact with hard water magnesium and calcium ions. A surfactant is simply defined as an additive that reduces the surface tension between the spray droplet and the leaf surface. The main function of an NIS is to increase spray retention, and to a lesser degree, may influence herbicide absorption. Silicone NIS surfactants reduce spray droplet surface tension, which allows the liquid to run into the leaf's stomata (tiny openings in the epidermis). This "stomatal flooding" enhances herbicide absorption. Methylated vegetable or seed oils (MSO) adjuvants are more aggressive in dissolving wax and leaf cuticle (outer layer of tissue) than NIS, resulting in faster and greater herbicide absorption. MSO adjuvants are usually required for grass-selective herbicides. Some of the most advanced adjuvants combine both a silicone NIS with an MSO for fast and maximum herbicide uptake.

Can I use household soaps and detergents? The short answer is - only if it's on the herbicide label. The practical answer is hard water and soap will form scum that plugs equipment. Soft water and soap will form lots of suds. And most household soaps have low concentration levels of surfactants,while most agricultural surfactants are in the 80–90% concentration range.

In summary, read the herbicide label for the recommended type and concentration of adjuvant for the targeted plant species and growth stage. Buy the adjuvant that meets the label requirements, and follow the label mixing instructions. When choosing among the many adjuvant brands that meet the herbicide label requirements, choose the adjuvant that best matches your application needs, such as drift reduction, rapid uptake, leaf adherence, etc. If there are any questions, consult the herbicide manufacturer.

HERBICIDES *from page 8*

by the companies to provide application use and background information to the end user. You'll need to ask your company representative for these.

No herbicide chat would be complete without discussing safety. Personal protection equipment (PPE) doesn't apply only to chainsaw or brushcutting!! Your skin is the main contact for herbicide. Be sure to use gloves when mixing and cleaning; the nitrile type is inexpensive and allows for dexterity. I wear two types of glasses, my prescription ones and either sunglasses or safety glasses. Wearing a face mask is a consideration if you're spraying herbicide in warmer weather where it will more easily volatilize. Lastly, unless I'm in a protected area, I do not spray on windy days. This causes collateral damage to other biota, including me!

For more info:

The National Pesticide Information Center - http://npic.orst.edu/az.html#P – has a wealth of information.

Weed Science Society gives a tutorial on How to ReadaLabel–http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/articles/understanding-herbicide-labels-its-important-to-you-your-family-and-the-environment

Techline News provides a free newsletter packed with info. http://techlinenews.com/subscribe

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship shows how to calculate correct application amounts - http://pesticidestewardship.org/homeowner/Pages/CalculatingtheCorrectAmount.aspx

Wisconsin Dept of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection maintains a database of pesticides. You can search in a variety of ways, such as by trade name, by active ingredient, by target, etc. It's an easy way to pull up labels. http://www.kellysolutions.com/wi/pesticideindex.asp

Dow has labels and SDS information on their website. http://www.dowagro.com/en-us/usag/labels-and-safety-data-sheets

Prairies from Scratch

by Amy Alstad, BMAP Ecologist

On a very cold day last January, I had the opportunity to attend a conference called "Prairies from Scratch," hosted at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Although the high temperature, unadjusted for windchill, was -3° F, more than 125 professionals attended to review and discuss the state of the science of planting prairies.

I returned home especially excited about two talks. The first was the keynote address, given by Scott Weber. Scott has more than 35 years of experience propagating and planting prairies, having worked with the WDNR, as well as running Bluestem Farms, his own native nursery near Baraboo. His talk challenged many of the so called myths of prairie reconstruction. For example, he took aim at several standard storylines including that poor germination is to be expected, especially among small-seeded or conservative species; that many species won't establish well on degraded soil; and that pioneer species such as black-eyed susan and wild rye are needed to pave the way. Scott countered these myths with many accounts of successful plantings, and cautioned his audience not to confuse economic barriers with ecological ones.

The second exciting presentation was an update on a project underway to create a large database of prairie plantings from across the region. I realize that talk of a "large database" is not generally something that people find all that compelling. I get that. But as I see it, there are two very appealing contributions such a database could provide.

First, wearing my private landowner hat, I am excited that this database will provide a way to organize and file relevant information from my prairie plantings. The database will be hosted online by the Chicago Botanic Garden, and, free of charge, will allow anybody to input and store all of the information relevant to their planting. I know from personal experience that keeping good records of this information can be difficult – just a year or two after I think to myself that I'll never forget where I collected my seeds or what I planted where, sure enough, the details have disappeared from my memory. This database will prompt users to fill in many details about site preparation, planting strategy, seed mix and more.

Second, wearing my researcher hat, I get very excited about the questions you could address with such a database. Just think of it – hundreds and hundreds swith archived data on the many variables involved. Such a dataset could address lots of topics that are difficult to study experimentally, and may be only anecdotally understood. Planting outcomes may hinge on soil type or weather or origin of seeds or planting data or numerous other factors. With so many variables at play, it is very difficult to know what worked when a planting succeeds, or what failed when a planting doesn't take well.

The database is currently under construction. The goal is to have a version ready for pilot testing this summer, and then be ready for the full roll out in the beginning of 2017. I hope that BMAP members with a prairie reconstruction or two to their names will contribute to this important effort to advance prairie restoration. I will pass along news when the final product is ready for action. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like me to keep you in mind for participation, feel free to drop me a note at ecologist@bluemounds.org.

Protecting the Land You Love

Katie Abbott, Land Protection Associate, Driftless Area Land Conservancy

"We wanted a place not just for wildlife to find refuge, but also for the people in our lives to find renewal. "For Norm and Alice Rubash, the forest, prairie and wetlands they've restored have been a labor of love for over two decades.

After investing all that time and energy, they wanted their efforts to last for generations. As Norm shared, "When you work so hard to get something, you want to see it last. "That's why Norm and Alice partnered with Driftless Area Land Conservancy to permanently protect their land through a conservation agreement (also called a conservation easement).

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that limits certain land uses in order to protect wildlife habitat, water quality, open space, scenic value and/or agriculture use.

The agreement runs with the deed of the property. As a result, all future owners are bound to the terms of the agreement, and Driftless will be there to enforce the terms that Norm and Alice so thoughtfully put into place.

Like all conservation easements, the Rubash's agreement was tailored to their vision. For example, some fields can be cropped or hayed in the future, but destroying the prairies and forests they worked so hard to create is prohibited.Norm and Alice continue to own the land, control access, pay property taxes, and can sell, lease, bequeath, or transfer it as they see fit.

Additionally, because they donated an easement to Driftless Area Land Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization with the mission of permanently protecting land, they were able to take advantage of a federal income tax incentive.

Landowners that donate a qualified easement can deduct 50% of their Adjusted Gross Income – 100% for agricultural producers – and spread that deduction out several years.

There are also costs involved for the landowner, as with any real estate transaction, but they will vary for each property and are determined after a site visit and conversation with Driftless staff.

Above all else, however, conservation agreements provide peace of mind. As Norm Rubash explains, "Now we know this sanctuary for people and wildlife will always be here."

For more than 15 years Driftless Area Land Conservancy has helped landowners in Southwest Wisconsin protect the lands they love. Driftless staff would be happy to talk with you confidentially about how conservation might help achieve your goals.

Please feel free to contact them (608)930-3252 or email David Clutter, Executive Director, at dave@driftlessconservancy.org or Katie Abbott, Conservation Programs Manager, at katie@driftlessconservancy.org. http://www.driftlessconservancy.org

GOPLIN *from page 4*

prairie cordgrass in the valley bottom among the dense brome grass. Many weed control questions came up, and Erik explained the details of his time-proven management techniques. Some examples include "drill and fill" — drill several downward-angled holes around the circumference of a tree, and fill the holes with herbicide (more popular now with today's powerful cordless drills). Another technique is "glove of death" — cover a chemical-resistant nitrile glove with an herbicide-saturated cotton glove, then run the double-gloved hand up and down the weed.

We were on the old two-track, or farm road, headed to the "back 40." My eyes scanned the south face of the valley slope and saw a pattern of vegetation similar to what we saw on the north slope. Erik explained that the "back 40," a true 40 acres at the back of the farm, had only been lightly grazed. It remained relatively intact with native flora after years of restoration. Bobolinks and upland sandpipers are frequently heard or seen here, he said.

As we entered the back 40, I could see it had been burned this past spring, which Erik confirmed had been the first after a 5-year rest from fire. The flora display was full of those old remnant prairie-loyalists plants we prairie enthusiasts love to see. People were oohing and ahing. What's this species? How about that species? I looked over at the hawthorn thicket in Erbe Grasslands to the east. Memories flooded back as I recall being part of the saw crew that cleared this area in 2008. The thicket was left for Bell's vireo and shrike habitat. As I was pondering the people and events of those saw-clearing days, I heard a clay-colored sparrow calling from a brushy area just downslope from the hawthorn thicket. The area where the sparrow was calling was originally black walnuts and honeysuckle. Eight years later, and after repeated clearings, the brush still hangs on. The challenge of brush memory, I mused.

Erik mentions that the one species that is not well represented in the back 40 is leadplant. He intends to interseed more leadplant in future years. Someone discovered a badger hole and several of us walk over to inspect. I pick up a raccoon skull next to the hole. There is a sizeable hole in the cranium. Hmm, I wonder?

The sky is big, the vistas long, the breeze cool, and the clouds are revealing themselves in mysterious patterns and colors. I listen for more birds and hear meadowlarks calling from several locations. It's peaceful out here. I feel content and calm. Perhaps this is a glimpse of old Wisconsin? I drift back 200 years in time.

"Time to head back," Erik declares. He reports the northwest section is the highest quality so anyone who wants to stay is welcome. The rest of us will head back for food and conversation. I contemplate exploring the northwest section, but I'm tired, and my hunger is getting the best of me. I turned and headed back, leaving the magic of this place for another day.

> **"Eventually we'll realize that if we destroy the ecosystem, we destroy ourselves."**
>
> *~ Jonas Salk*

HISTORY *from page 1*

through the USDA's Wildlife Habitat Inventive Program (WHIP). This was the first attempt to standardize site visit information.

1999 and 2000 were dedicated to more formally organizing the Project. Dean resigned as President and I moved into the slot. Nancy left and was replaced by Mary Fritz as Secretary. The interim tag was lifted. In 2000 and 2001 we were meeting in the Evangelical Lutheran Church basement. Tom and Kathie Brock received the first Bur Oak Award at the 2001 Annual Meeting.

In 2001 we completed our first strategic plan resulting in a mission statement, bylaws and some operating committees. We contemplated a name change. After many, many discussions and polling of members we decided that our name was well established in people's minds and to simply add the word "Area" would give us a less parochial feel and distance us from the Village and State Park of the same name. Among others, the plan set goals to increase membership to 1,000, fundraise for a permanent ecologist and get our own office and incorporate as a federal 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit and become independent of CCC's sponsorship. Many goals were met, some remain.

Deciding to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit conservation organization marks a significant turning point in our organization's history, making a nice place to break off this story where I will pick it back up again in a future newsletter. In closing on the first part of our history, it's worthy to note the following:

The Parrish Savanna at the intersection of Moyer Road and Cty Hwy F, where Brian did his thesis work, is now a State Natural Area managed by The Prairie Enthusiast. It's adjacent to several hundred additional protected acres that make up the Pleasure Valley Conservancy. While the range of the Blue Mounds Area Project has expanded considerably since these early days, the beautiful Town of Vermont is where it all started and still has, by far, the most BMAP members and site visits of any other town in the BMAP area.

BMAP was modeled on the principles of Community Conservation Consultants. CCC has become Community Conservation Inc. and is still active promoting conservation in developing countries around the globe focusing on primate conservation (the monkey connection, see http://www.communityconservation.org). BMAP owes much to Brian Pruka, Rob Horwich and CCC for their early and on-going support. Many other people that I have failed to mentioned also played key roles in establishing BMAP.

Events

Special Educational Opportunity
Land Management Workshop
Saturday, September 17, 2016

The Southwest Grassland Consortium is sponsoring a land management workshop focusing on grassland and prairies. Need some help figuring out what to do with your land? Want to network with peers and experts and get your questions answered? You'll learn about managing oak savanna, rare species, prairie restoration, and much more! The day will include lunch and a field trip to local grassland management sites. Registration will be required. Please email Katie Abbott to register at katie@driftlessconservancy.org More info will be available on the Driftless web page — http://driftlessconservancy.org

Cost is $15 for the day. Breakfast snack, lunch and handouts included with the cost.

Location: Barneveld High School. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

Hiking Pleasure Valley
Saturday, October 1st, 1pm

Join host Ken Wade and Patricia Trochlell on a beautiful 4 to 5 mile hike from Blue Mound State Park north through Pleasure Valley to Ken and Pat's house at 10747 Moyer Road located a quarter mile west from Cty Hwy F. The entire trip will be through conservation land protected by the State, Dane County and Prairie Enthusiast including over 400 acres Ken and Pat have personally donated in easements or helped purchase. Expect rugged conditions with some off-trail hiking in a mostly wooded landscape. You may want to bring water and protect yourself from ticks. We'll include a stop part way through the hike at Ken and Pat's for a water and bathroom break and have refreshments there after the hike. We'll meet at the East Tower parking lot at the top of Blue Mound State Park at 1:00 and arrange to have shuttles for hikers back to the lot by 5:30 PM. Parking stickers are required for access to the Park.

BMAP 2016 Fall Workshops

The following BMAP-sponsored workshops are free but registration is required and space is limited. To register send an email with your name and which workshop you would like to attend to workshops@bluemounds.org

Seed Propagation Workshop
Saturday, September 25, 1pm-4pm

It will be presented by James MacDonald who has over 20 years of propagation experience. This will be a practical workshop outlining all of the various steps that will turn a native seed into a growing plant.

Location: Prairie Spirit Wildlife Sanctuary, 1811 Spring Rose Road, Verona

Seed Collecting Workshop
Saturday, October 22, Noon - 5pm

An introduction to seed collecting, cleaning, storing and planting. This is an introductory workshop on the use of self-collected seeds in native plant restoration. It will be led by veteran prairie restorationists John Barnes and James MacDonald. Topics to be covered include: locating and identifying seed sources, cleaning and proper storage of seeds, and effectively sowing your collected seeds. Participants will be collecting and cleaning native seeds for their own use from the large Prairie Spirit restoration. Be prepared to discuss your planting plans for the seeds you collect including your site characteristics.

Location: Prairie Spirit Wildlife Sanctuary, 1811 Spring Rose Road, Verona

Beginning GPS/GIS Workshop
Saturday, November 12, 10am - 2pm

This workshop will be taught by Chip Hankley who has been a GIS professional for more than 20 years. We will learn how to generate a maps based on survey data collected from your GPS. Participants will need to bring a laptop computer with QGIS installed (an open-source, cross-platform GIS package) and a GPS device capable of collecting and transferring GPS survey information.

Location: Prairie Spirit Wildlife Sanctuary, 1811 Spring Rose Road, Verona

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, nonnative 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.

The Blue Mounds Area Project Newsletter is published three times yearly.
We welcome your comments, submissions, and advertisements.

Deadlines for submissions for 2016 newsletters: Spring Newsletter — March 1, 2016
Summer Newsletter — July 1, 2016
Fall Newsletter —October 15, 2016

Send submissions to: newsletter@bluemounds.org
Editor: Marci Hess, marci.hess@tds.net — Designer: Julie Raasch, jul@creative-zoo.com

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BMAP Board of Directors

BMAP Staff

Amy Alstad, Ecologist
ecologist@bluemounds.org

If you are interested in assisting or volunteering for the Blue Mounds Area Project, please contact us:
info@bluemounds.org

New BMAP number is
608-561-2627 (or, 608-561-BMAP)

Blue Mounds Area Project Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Membership Status:
❍ Renewal ❍ New Member ❍ Gift Membership for _____

Membership Level:
❍ Student $15 ❍ Basic $30 ❍ Contributor $50 ❍ Supporter $100 ❍ Sponsor $500 ❍ Patron $1000
❍ Other contribution to further the BMAP mission _____

TOTAL _____

All contributions are tax–deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

❍ Yes, I would like to receive information about site visits.

Make check payable and return to: BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT, PO BOX 332, MT. HOREB, WI 53572

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"Single-species management blind to relationships of the larger, associated community is unlikely to preserve the suite of species and processes important in maintaining natural ecosystems."

— R.T. Paine

facebook.com/BMAPcommunity

HAVE YOU EXPIRED??

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