

BMAP NEWS



BMAP
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

Conservation and Community. Together.

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The Importance of Having a Land Management Plan

By: Ronald Jones, retired DNR Forester

I think it's safe to assume that most people reading this article have planted a vegetable garden. Imagine how your garden would have turned out if you did not have a well-thought-out plan; a plan that set goals for your garden, inventoried your garden space, detailed when and how to plant and tend for the vegetables. Without a garden plan, you most likely ended up with more weeds than vegetables or vegetables you may not like. Caring for your larger property is similar to planning for a garden. Achieving your dreams for the land all starts with a *comprehensive land management plan*. In addition, having a land management plan for your property may also qualify you for several governmental incentive programs such as the WI Managed Forest Law (MFL) or the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) grants.

As a field forester, I have written hundreds of forest management plans for woodland owners. I have

come to see a land management plan as a three-legged stool consisting of: setting goals and objectives for the land (leg 1), taking inventory of the land (leg 2), and prescribing land management practices (leg 3) based on current conditions to help achieve the goals for the property. Failure to address all three legs of a land management plan will make it unstable and likely to fall short of achieving desired outcomes.

In the first leg of a land management plan, it's *your* job to determine the *goals, objectives, and desired outcomes* for

your property. You will need to spend some time thinking about how you use the land and what you hope it could be. Think about the types of plant communities you desire (prairie, forest, oak savanna, wetland) and what you want from the land (habitat for wildlife, hiking trails, harvesting trees for firewood or lumber, natural beauty, etc.). Be specific and be realistic to the capability of your land.

The second leg of the land management plan requires taking

Land Management Plan continued page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

2 President's Message/
Ecologist's Report

3 Conservation
Conversations

6 Restoration
Tool Kits

8 Home Bird
Collisions

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greg Jones

I hope this issue finds you all staying cozy warm in between your winter projects. As we wrap up 2022, I want to thank Carroll Schaal for his service as the BMAP Treasurer and welcome Mark Rauls as our

new treasurer. Carroll is a founding member of BMAP and the longest serving board member. During my time on the board of directors, I have looked to Carroll for advice and direction all along the way. Carroll has been the pillar holding us up, and

he will be missed. Though Mark has some big shoes to fill, we have all the confidence in the world that he will be able to help steer us into the future.

As we look ahead to 2023, we still have a vacant position for someone to take on membership management. Mark Rauls has stepped up to also maintain our membership database, but this still leaves some important things that can be done on membership issues. This role will not involve a lot of work; if you think you can help with this please respond to info@bluemounds.org.

This winter you can look forward to three interesting programs that will be held at the Mt Horeb Senior Center. More information about these programs is included in this issue and on our web page. Stay tuned for

updates as we finalize our summer programming (which will include at least three Property Tours and three Walk with a Naturalist events).

I want to remind our members if you haven't already renewed your membership for 2023, it is time to do so. Our dues come up on January first of every year for everyone. Having the yearly renewal due on January 1st has made it much easier for us on the record-keeping side of things, and we hope that it has made it easier for you too. You can renew online or by using our mailing envelope.

I hope you all enjoy time outside this winter. While there is always the winter work of removing buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasives, don't forget to get out and simply enjoy the snow and the crystal clear blue skies of winter! 🌍

ECOLOGIST'S REPORT



Josh Pletzer

As I write this, we are just a couple of weeks from the winter solstice. Despite it being the shortest day of the year, I can't help but look forward to this date since it means that the darkest part of the year

is halfway over and the subsequent days will gradually lengthen. It also has me contemplating (and possibly even envying) the wisdom of creatures who either go to sleep or simply leave until the spring's renewal. As I look back on this last year, it has been quite a rollercoaster ride for me. I began working for BMAP in May. While it has been a lot to take in, from learning how to work on BMAP's digital assets to meeting BMAP members on their land while dealing with recurring illnesses, it has also filled my "passion for conservation" bucket in so many ways. I have immense gratitude for the work and effort BMAP does for us, our ecosystem, and our community.

During 2022, BMAP members and I walked 14 properties together to discuss their restoration efforts and goals on more than 800 acres and I worked on creating a more user-friendly calendar system for scheduling site visits and communicating more generally. I also had the pleasure to accompany four Walk with a Naturalist events and three member property tours; it was impressive just how enthusiastic and curious folks were learning together on these tours. I look forward to more tours in 2023!

In addition to meeting people out on the land, I published and shared ecological information through our BMAP eBulletins and BMAP Newsletter. I submitted an application to Microsoft's Nonprofit Grant system and BMAP was awarded free access to Microsoft's extensive suite of business tools, giving BMAP access to technology that will support your land goals and our joint efforts. Additionally, the BMAP Board team collectively worked on reconceptualizing and updating our brochure to help spread the word about BMAP's services. We were even awarded a grant from the Mount

Horeb Community Foundation to support this project and increase the visibility of BMAP in our surrounding community. Be on the lookout for our new brochures in 2023!

I want to thank all of our members with whom I had the pleasure of meeting, working with, and learning from over the past season. Having spent 2022 getting up to speed on the day-to-day of this work, next year I'm looking forward to expanding the site visit process, site reports, and future projects and events. One particular goal is to increase the number of suburban yard site visits to help conservation expand into this necessary new frontier. For more information on this endeavor, consider attending my Conservation Conversations presentation on February 23rd.

And last, but certainly not least, I want to give my sincere appreciation to all of the members who donated to BMAP this year. Your generous contributions support our growing efforts in community-based conservation.

Happy holidays, well wishes, and see you all in 2023! 🌍

- Josh Pletzer



Conservation Conversation / Winter Lecture Series

January 26, 2023 • Panel Discussion • 7-8:30 pm Understanding Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are a way for landowners to conserve the natural resource values of their property for the long term but they may not work for everyone. A panel of landowners with easements and representatives from organizations that hold conservation easements will discuss what conservation easements are and some of the considerations and goals of interest to a landowner considering a conservation easement for their land. The panel will give short presentations with time for questions and answers.

February 9, 2023 • Ron Endres • 7-8:30 pm Collecting and Cleaning Native Seed

Ron Endres has been harvesting and donating native seeds to non-profits over the last 13 years. His seeds have been used to plant more than 75 prairie, savanna and woodland restorations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. Though he works alone, his 2022 harvest totaled over 600 lbs. of pure seed valued at over \$225,000 representing 191 species.

Ron learned his craft working as a volunteer specializing in seed harvest, production and planting with Dane County Parks. He understands seed cleaning through the use of large production machines as well as small, hand processing methods. Ron will share techniques on how to harvest, dry, and screen seeds and what basic tools and equipment are used.

Ron has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Gathering Waters Conservationist of the Year (2016), Iowa County's Friend of Conservation (2021), The Prairie

Enthusiasts local chapter volunteer of the year (2019), and SwampLover's Conservancy Conservation in Action Award (2013).

February 23, 2023 • Josh Pletzer • 7-8:30 pm The Domestic Wilderness: Invigorate Your Suburban Yard with Semi-Wild Plantings

Living in a suburb of Madison, Josh is no stranger to reinventing his family's small yard over the last few years into a more hearty, ecological landscape starting with native plants from diminutive sedges to enormous forbs. This talk will focus on strategies, beginner's pitfalls, and where to find more resources to guide you in making your yard, big or small, more native, diverse, and ultimately valuable to the future of life on this planet. 🌍

HELP WANTED

BMAP Newsletter Editor

Merge your passions for writing and the natural environment by being the editor of the BMAP Newsletter! BMAP is looking for someone to help solicit, curate, and edit content for the seasonal newsletter. Because of the workload required for this role (15+ hours per issue), it is compensated at \$250 per issue. Think you or someone you know would be a good fit? Contact newsletter@bluemounds.org with any questions. 🌍

Land Management Plan *continued from page 1*

an *inventory* of the current conditions of your land. You may be able to get a good start on this, but most owners will need the help of a natural resource professional, i.e. someone who has the training and understanding to measure the quantity and quality of current biotic and abiotic conditions on the property. After gathering this information, a natural resource professional will be able to map out and quantify the location of various plant communities of the property based on areas with similar conditions of plants, soil, topography, and hydrology.

The third leg of a land management plan involves *prescribing practices* to move the land toward your objectives for the property. Most property owners will need the help of a professional who has the understanding



and knowledge of various land management practices (such as planting, weeding, burning, thinning, harvesting, and natural succession) that can be implemented to move your property towards your desired goals.

To illustrate this need for a plan I'll use a forestry example. Let's say a landowner has a forest that consists of an equal mix of mature aspen trees and northern hardwood type trees (sugar maple, basswood, red oak). If the landowner's goal is to create the best habitat for deer, my prescription would include harvesting all of the trees except for scattered oaks to create ideal conditions for aspen to regenerate vegetatively. The young brushy aspen regrowth is a magnet for deer. However, if the landowner's goal is for a diversity of longer-lived trees that may produce quality sawtimber, my

prescription would include selectively thinning the aspen trees so that the other hardwood species can develop into larger trees. Both alternatives are perfectly acceptable forestry practices but have very different results.

So where can you get help with developing a land management plan? Fortunately, we live in a state where our abundant natural resources are highly valued. Help can be found in various levels of government including your local County Land Conservation Department, DNR office (including foresters and wildlife managers), and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office. In addition, private and nonprofit natural resource consultants exist across the state to assist with helping you develop a land management plan (some of which require a fee for service); you might even consider working with your very own BMAP ecologist! 🌍



Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA in Geological History

By Mark Sturnick

Mark lives in the Town of Moscow, Iowa County and teaches science at Barneveld High School.

I attended Blue Mound Area Project's Walk with a Naturalist event in October at Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area (SNA). That evening I reread a chapter in Wisconsin Land and Life (1997) titled "Eastern White Pine in Southwestern Wisconsin, Stability and Change at Different Scales," by Susy Svatek Ziegler. In this article, I will share some of the geological and paleogeographic history of southwest Wisconsin's remaining relict pine sites.

Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA occurs in a quartz-rich, mid-Ordovician rock formation called St. Peter Sandstone. Below this rock formation are older Cambrian sandstones and shales. Because the sedimentary rocks dip slightly to the south, the older strata crop out further to the north. Higher in the stratigraphic column are younger Ordovician carbonate rocks. Atop nearby West Blue Mound is an even younger, though more resistant, rock layer of Silurian silicified dolomite called chert. Isolated stands

of pine relicts in southwest Wisconsin remain where streams have eroded their valleys laterally and undercut sandstone. Here, bluffs are nutrient poor and drought-prone with minimal soil. The Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA is in the uppermost Mill Creek watershed at the top of the Wisconsin River drainage divide.

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) may have persisted in southwest Wisconsin for millions(!) of years, though this is difficult to know for sure. The Ice Age pollen record is incomplete in our older, erosional driftless landscape. Whether the Driftless Area was a Pleistocene refugium for arctic and boreal plant species is uncertain; the periglacial climate may have been too harsh. What is known is that at the end of the Wisconsin glacial period (10,400 +/- 100 years), eastern white pine was present in southwest Wisconsin. Spruce forests were also present at this time, though rapid warming and increased dryness in the Holocene at 9500 years ago favored pine. Pine relicts thus represent a formerly more extensive population.

A 1948 survey in six southwest

Wisconsin counties identified 22 pine relicts. Susy Svatek visited eight of these in 1992 to study how natural and human disturbances affect eastern white pine regeneration. In her surveys, she found no fire scars on pines in relicts. Where farm families logged some trees or allowed some cattle to graze, and where deer lightly browsed vegetation, there was still successful regeneration. Cattle trampling seedlings and deer browse of terminal buds do damage and can destroy young trees, but because eastern white pine seedlings are intermediate in shade tolerance, regeneration does require some level of disturbance.

The 1997 report makes three other promising conclusions:

1. Relict stands of eastern white pine are healthy despite being removed from their climatic optimum.
2. Regeneration correlates with climate, soil, topographic, and biotic factors, and with small, frequent natural-level disturbances.
- 3 As it has throughout the Holocene, relict pine will likely persist here in southwest Wisconsin at the southern limit of its range.

However, reading this 1997 report in 2022 leaves me with a more ambiguous feeling. During the Walk with a Naturalist event I saw many white pine seedlings reaching toward the sunlight. Can our pine relicts survive a warming climate? I am hopeful. 🌱

SOURCE

- Ostergren, R.C. and T.R. Vale, Eds. (1997) Wisconsin Land and Life, The University of Wisconsin Press, 567p.

Joshua Mayer

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR A NEW PROJECTOR

In order to continue offering high quality, multimedia educational lectures, we are asking for your help in purchasing a projector!

In the past, we have borrowed a projector for our annual winter lectures and other events, but with changing technology, we are in need of a new projector. The projector we have identified to meet our needs costs \$716. Your donation (of any size!) to help us purchase this projector is very much appreciated. We hope to purchase one in preparation for our upcoming winter lectures beginning on January 26.

Donations can be made on our website. Please indicate "projector" in the donation note field or mail a donation to Blue Mounds Area Project, P.O. Box 332, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. If we are so fortunate to receive more than we need for the projector, any additional funds will be used to continue the good work BMAP does every day. Thank you! 🌱



Have You Considered a Site Visit?

By Josh Pletzer,
BMAP Outreach Ecologist

A site visit is a wonderful opportunity for you, as a BMAP member, to work with the Outreach Ecologist in a one-on-one setting and discuss the ecological state of your land. During a site visit, the ecologist will tour your land, help develop and/or empower your goals, strategize on how you can improve the conservation potential of your land, identify plants and plant communities, and more. Together, you and the ecologist will explore what your land has to offer and what potential it holds to provide native species a place to survive into the future. The structure of the site visit is flexible and individualized to your desires and interests. You can join for all or part of the process and do everything from showing

off your work to discussing future goals. Alternatively, you can send the Outreach Ecologist out on your land alone and then receive a follow-up report — it's all up to you!

The goals of the site visit and subsequent report are to uncover more details about your land's history, understand what factors may shape your goals, and provide insights on how you can work toward achieving your goals. The site report includes information on land management strategies you can choose from to suit your goals. BMAP encourages you to develop your land management plan based on your interests and abilities, with the hope that the report is both a helpful resource on its own and a guide to additional resources you can consult as you take the next steps on your land management journey.

Not only does the site visit and report support you and your land,

but they also support the BMAP community. Information gathered and lessons learned from site visits are used to help inform suggestions that are shared with other BMAP members. Further, we strive to develop and organize activities, programs, and efforts based on the interests and needs of our members, and site visits assist with gathering your feedback. Community is crucial in this line of work and the one-on-one time spent with the BMAP staff during site visits strengthens our collective efforts as land stewards.

If you are interested in a site visit, please send a message to ecologist@bluemounds.org. If a few years have passed since your last site visit, feel free to inquire about a follow-up visit to discuss how things are going and/or share anything interesting you have learned during your stewardship journey! 🌱

Wisconsin Plants and Natural Communities stressed by climate change

A focus on climate impacts on native plant communities from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) shows that warmer winters, more extreme storms, and competition from non-native species are impacting Wisconsin's plants and natural communities. The last two decades have been the warmest on record in Wisconsin and the past decade has been the wettest.

"Healthy and diverse habitats can better absorb the stresses of a rapidly changing climate. Increasing efforts to restore and protect vulnerable native habitats can help them adapt." — Amy Staffen, WICCI Plants and Natural Communities co-chair.

Wisconsin's native habitats are already under stress from urban development, cultivation, and competition with non-native invasive species. Climate change is amplifying these non-climate stressors. Increasingly frequent and intense storms are bringing more nutrient-laden stormwater runoff and sediment into aquatic and



Photo courtesy of Ice Age Trail Alliance

wetland communities, promoting the growth of invasive species. Milder winters, longer growing seasons, and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide are favoring the germination and spread of both non-native invasive species and aggressive native species. Droughts are drying soils and wetlands and lowering groundwater. Windows for prescribed fire are changing, diminishing the habitats and the species that rely on them.

With less severe winters in Wisconsin, larger numbers of deer are browsing on understory plants, including sensitive species, and impacting forest regeneration.

The warming climate is also impacting iconic tree species important to both wildlife and the timber industry, such as red pine and white pine, and culturally

Climate Stress continued page 9



Two Perspectives on Building Your Restoration Toolkit

By: Frank Sandner and Jenn Chakravorty

PERSPECTIVE ONE: FRANK AND CAROLINE

This August BMAP members had a chance to tour Caroline Beckett and Frank Sandner's 66-acre property that features an oak woodland, prairie, and pasture-to-prairie conversion. When members noticed there were no gasoline-powered tools in the garage, they wanted to know what made it possible.

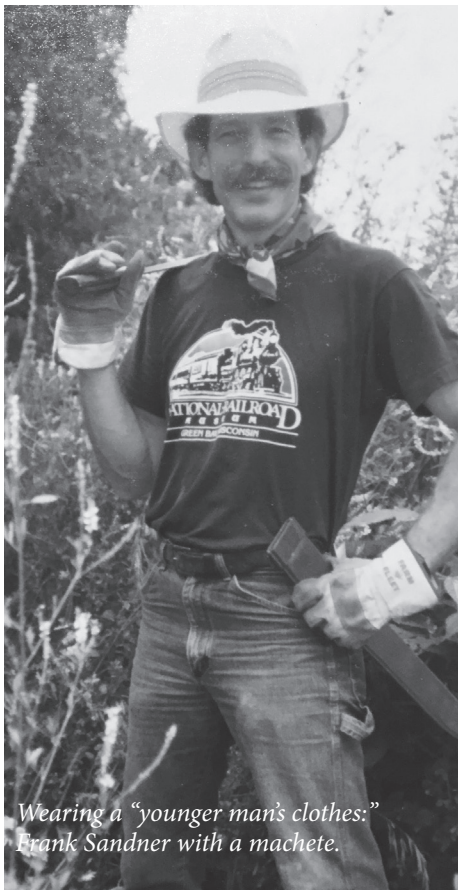
Frank's first comment was that they walk a lot. Frank carries his tools out to a work site. These consist of all electric 60-volt DeWalt tools: chainsaw, blower, and string trimmer that Frank charges with a solar panel in his yard. Though they can be annoying and require patience to use, Frank says it's worth it because he doesn't have to deal with gasoline,

stinky exhaust, or the deafening roar of a finicky combustion engine.

One of Frank's most used tools include what he considers the world's best loppers — Bahco Pradines Lopper. Frank also has his dad's wheelbarrow, which he describes as, "a fantastic, useful device, and I remember him giving my brother and me rides when we were little."

When, as Frank states, "I wore a younger man's clothes," he would rely on his physical strength and use an axe, pick, and splitting maul. These days Frank goes to the hardware store and rents a walk-behind brush cutter and a wood splitter. Though Frank still has to deal with gasoline, noise and exhaust, he has fewer maintenance and repair requirements. Owning a pickup truck also helps make this possible.

Frank made sure to make it clear that they do hire out a lot of work. Specifically, by working with Adaptive Restoration he was able to get some clearing, burning, mowing, and spraying done over the last several years. Frank states that, "skill, knowledge, stamina and youth are crucial to restoring this land." Last winter, Tim Post from Mount Horeb cleared a three-acre section with his woods mower and a small backhoe. That method cleaned up some old-growth buckthorn and Frank says he plans to hire Tim again. If you have other ideas, Frank says he'd like to hear them.



Wearing a "younger man's clothes:" Frank Sandner with a machete.

Photo courtesy of Frank Sandner



PERSPECTIVE TWO: JENN

I recently became a new landowner and found myself revisiting my strategy to build a restoration toolkit after hearing how Frank and Caroline manage their land. Until recently, I spent my entire adult life renting apartments and moving from one city to another every few years. So, my restoration "equipment" didn't expand much beyond a hammer and camping hatchet. I began to assemble my toolkit by first asking myself what I intended to accomplish and whether I wanted to specialize for one habitat type. My thought process loosely followed these four steps:

- 1) **How many different uses can I get out of this tool?**
 - a. I want to get at least two uses out of a tool — e.g., cutting large brush AND felling trees.
- 2) **How many seasons can I use this tool/what are my storage needs?**
 - a. My goal is to use the tool for at least two seasons but ideally all four. Because I live 30 minutes from my land, drive a sedan, and don't have a garage, any owned or rented equipment must be small enough to fit into my car and the basement of my apartment.
- 3) **What is the cost comparison between owning, renting, or paying for service?**
 - a. My current budget is fairly low and I'm unwilling to pay more than \$300 for any one tool — rented or purchased (hopefully this will change with time); I have hopes of applying for additional funding that may make paying for service a more realistic option in the future.
- 4) **At what point is functionality more important than selecting a**

tool with lower emissions?

a. This could apply to anything you value, not just lower emissions. I will be doing much of the work myself during weekends; I need equipment that will help me maximize my time.

I have a limited budget and am still getting to know my land. So, I decided to choose tools geared for management work that is often the first step and also never seems to end: dealing with invasive species and brush. As I'm sure many of you can relate, these two are part of the long-term management of any habitat and tools for this type of work will always be needed.

As Frank shared, I knew a good pair of loppers would go a long way in meeting some of my smaller needs. They can be used for a variety of things, work in any season/store easily, and are under \$100 a pair (even the Bahco Pradines!). However, based on the size of honeysuckle I had to contend with, I knew I needed a tool with greater capacity.

Chainsaw? Brush cutter? Backhoe? Restoration contractors? After trying out an electric chainsaw, I realized this tool worked great for cutting larger brush and trees but didn't meet my standards for cutting smaller brush and girdling trees. As such, I decided to purchase a smaller gas chainsaw that would meet all of my needs. I traded owning multiple lower emission tools for one less efficient tool that will cover more of my needs and maximize my time. If my budget, availability, and land needs were different, perhaps I would have chosen differently. That's the beauty and the curse of ecology — there is no one-size-fits all approach.

Using my four-step thought process, I eventually built my "beginning landowner toolkit" consisting of loppers, an herbicide dabber, herbicide backpack sprayer, gas-powered chainsaw, rented brush cutter, neighbor-borrowed tractor and brush hog, and contracted prescribed burn. These are tools that work for my unique situation.

I'd love to hear from some more "seasoned" landowners out there: Has a similar thought process worked for you? What are some of your essential tools? Email newsletter@bluemounds.org with your comments or questions. 🌱



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Bird Collisions at Homes

By: Brenna Marsicek, Director of Communications and Outreach at Madison Audubon bmarsicek@madisonaudubon.org

Each spring and fall, our volunteers look for dead birds. Usually, bird lovers are looking for happy, singing, living birds. Not in this case. The volunteers don't hope to find what they're looking for, but very often they do. There's a common denominator in the birds they find: they died after hitting a window.

Windows are a clear and present danger for birds. Hundreds of millions – even up to a billion birds die every year after hitting windows, and that's in the United States alone. While a lot of those collisions (56.4%) happen at buildings taller than 4 stories, the rest of them (43.6%) happen at homes.

Birds hit glass because they see reflection of habitat, or if there are two sets of windows running parallel to each other, they see a clear path to fly through (also known as a pass-through effect). Birds are also confused by lights on at night or try to reach a plant located inside the window.

Our Bird Collision Corps program works with volunteers in the Madison area to survey and document the location and frequency of bird deaths due to windows. This fall, we monitored 33 buildings of different sizes, situations, and property owners. It's emotionally challenging, unglamorous work that these volunteers do because they know the power of data and change; they have incredible grit and foresight.

Based on the data these volunteers

collect, the species that are most prone to window collisions are beautiful, charismatic, already-in-decline species, including warblers (particularly Tennessee, Palm, Nashville, and Ovenbird), sparrows (White-throated, Dark-eyed Juncos), kinglets (Golden- and Ruby-crowned), and thrushes (robins, Hermit, and Swainson's). Resident birds like Northern Cardinals and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers can also fall victim to window collisions, but in lower proportions. Whatever the species, it is a heartbreaking and preventable loss.

In addition, studies have documented a severe decline in native birds (breeding bird populations are down by 29% since 1970), and Bird Collision Corps data suggest that tens of thousands of birds are dying each year in just the Madison area due to window collisions.

That is heavy. This is the kind of information you can't un-know. But if you're anything like the Bird Collision Corps volunteers, that knowledge activates the inner change-maker in you.

So: let's focus on what can change. The lowest hanging fruit is conveniently located right at home, with our own windows. Knowing that nearly half of window collisions happen at homes and that reflection and pass-through effects are the main drivers of collisions, are powerful pieces of information that can inspire next steps.

There are a variety of at-home

window treatments that reduce the reflectivity and transparency of windows without making the windows unpleasant to human eyes. Those treatments range in aesthetics, price, and ease of installation. Options include dot or square decals applied in a 2" x 2" grid to the exterior of the windows, paracord curtains (a great DIY project or can be purchased online), tempera paint (washable, and fun for kids and art-loving adults to collaborate on), insect screens, and many others. In order to be most effective, these treatments must be applied to the exterior of the glass and leave gaps of no more than 2". More ideas for window treatments are available at madisonaudubon.org/prevent-collisions.

To maximize your time, effort, and budget, we recommend treating only the windows that cause the problems, so you'll need to take note of where the collisions are happening. If you hear, see, or find a bird that has hit a window, that tells you that window is a good place to put up a window treatment. Once you do, notice if it's working to reduce collisions, and if there are any other windows where this is happening and do the same, if so. Soon, you'll find the problem is resolved. What a sense of accomplishment and relief that is!

Of course, we know that only half of the window collisions happen at homes... and the other half of the problem is more complicated. New building designers and developers commonly use huge amounts of glass in their designs of office buildings, stadiums, schools, and beyond. This is obviously a big problem for birds, and fortunately, one we can influence

Building collisions kill an estimated 599 million birds per year in the United States

- Residences account for 43.6% of collisions (2.1 birds per year)
- Low-rise buildings account for 56.3% of collisions (21.7 birds per year)
- High-rise buildings account for 0.1% of collisions (24.3 birds per year)

© American Bird Conservancy.

Based on Loss et al. 2014 Bird-building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability. *Condor* (116):8-23.



Residences: 1-3 floors
122.9 million buildings



Low-rise: 4-11 floors
15.1 million buildings



High-rise: 12+ floors
0.5 million buildings

through advocacy. For example, Madison adopted Wisconsin's first Bird-safe Glass Ordinance in 2020, largely due to the outcry from citizens over the number of glass buildings going up on the isthmus. Folks proactively contacted their alderpersons to ask for change. People who made noise in public spaces about the need to prevent unintended outcomes of using that much glass. They made a big difference!

If you live in a town where glass buildings are a problem, please know that your phone calls and emails matter. In many cases, this is an opportunity to educate developers and city officials on the important but somewhat hidden issue of bird deaths due to windows. In other cases, this is a matter of demand — if it is clear that the community cares about the issue, the decision-making will factor that in.

With folks in the Blue Mounds Area Project and Madison Audubon communities working hard on ensuring birds can safely navigate through the man-made world, we are moving the needle a little bit at a time to help bird populations rebound. The Tennessee Warblers and White-throated Sparrows of the world are better off, and so are the folks who enjoy them. Thank you for all you do for birds and your community! 🌍

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Rosenberg et al. 2019 "Decline of the North American avifauna." *Science*
- Loss et al. 2014 "Bird-building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability." *Condor*

Class Series Review continued from page 5

important species, such as wild rice, ginseng, and blueberries. As native habitats become further degraded, pollinators that rely on them, like bees and butterflies, may also diminish, with cascading impacts on plant-based industries such as agriculture, forestry, and food systems.

But there is hope. The WICCI Plants and Natural Communities Working Group (<https://wicci.wisc.edu/plants-and-natural-communities-working-group/>) recommends science-based, climate adaptation-focused management approaches to help native habitats in Wisconsin and offers workshops for property managers and stakeholders to help translate concepts relating to climate change impacts into tangible, real-world actions. There is hope for the future but it's up to us.

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) is a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders formed as a partnership between UW–Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. WICCI's goals are to evaluate climate change impacts on Wisconsin and foster solutions. Visit our website at wicci.wisc.edu. 🌍

2022 BUR OAK AWARD

Every year we give out the Bur Oak Award to recognize a BMAP member and landowner who has undertaken or recently completed a project on their own land that makes outstanding progress in protecting or restoring native biodiversity.

Excellence in private land stewardship is shown by the degree of leadership and innovation in the project's approach, sensitivity to the local landscape, and enhancement of the habitat of threatened, endangered or special concern species or rare plant communities. The bur oak tree, with its thick, corky bark survived the frequent fires of the oak savanna in pre-settlement times. The bur oak represents both the dominant native plant community of the region and symbolizes persistence in the face of adversity. The award this year was not a hard decision. After our BMAP property tour at Mike Samuel and Nancy Thomas's property, we knew that these dedicated land stewards were an obvious choice.

Mike and Nancy own and care for 66 acres in the Town of Perry that they have been working on since 1999. On their property you can find oak woodlands, prairie, and a sedge meadow. They have established a conservation easement on 50 acres and are now working on an endowment for the maintenance of the property in perpetuity. BMAP is pleased to give this award to such good land stewards. Congratulations, Mike and Nancy, and thank you for your commitment to caring for the land! 🌍



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BMAP ONLINE

www.bluemounds.org

eBULLETIN

BMAP's monthly eBulletin for announcements, habitat restoration tips, and more:

bluemounds.org/connect



- BMAP's Facebook page for events and environmental news:
facebook.com/BMAPcommunity
- BMAP's Facebook group for sharing photos, ideas, and activities:
facebook.com/groups/BMAPcommunity

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.



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Interested in volunteering with the Blue Mounds Area Project?
Contact us at: info@bluemounds.org
608-571-4501

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Make checks payable and return to: Blue Mounds Area Project, PO Box 332, Mount Horeb, WI 53572
or you can contribute online at <https://www.bluemounds.org/donor-form>

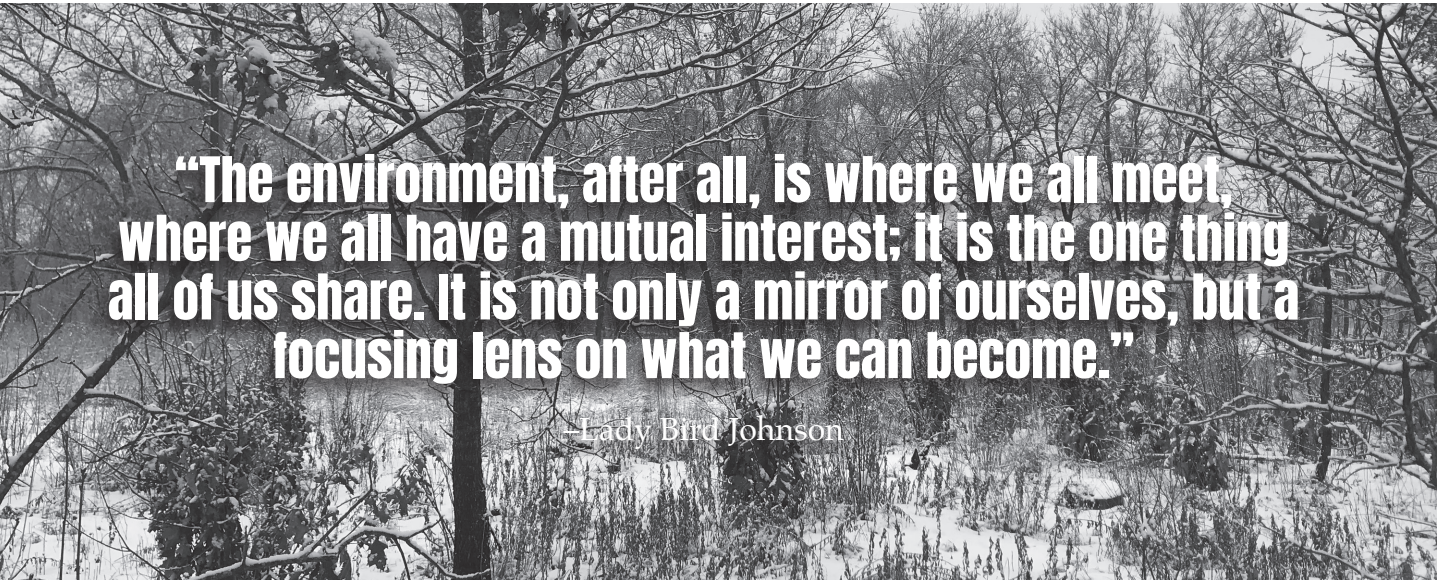
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Thank you! Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



BMAP
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

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**“The environment, after all, is where we all meet,
where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing
all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a
focusing lens on what we can become.”**

—Lady Bird Johnson

J. Chakravorty

BMAPNEWS

The Blue Mounds Area Project Newsletter is published three times yearly.

We welcome your comments, submissions, and advertisements.

Newsletter editor: Jenn Chakravorty (newsletter@bluemound.org) Graphic Design: Tom Senatori

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IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

BMAP maintains a calendar year membership cycle. If you are receiving a complimentary copy of the newsletter, please consider becoming a member.