Monarch Butterfly Journey North, Milkweed Conservation, and Pollinator Habitat

BMAP

BUR OAK WOODS LAND PROJECT

May 2022: Blue Monarch Area Project eBulletin

Conservation and Restoration Together

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Outreach Ecologist's Updates

Dale Bradford

Hello BMAP,

The growing season is now in full swing, with many of us seeding, pulling, mowing, and spraying. Hopefully you have completed your prescribed burns, replacing the more verbally aggressive and ecologically destructive species at the beginning of the growth season, and preparing your prairie for a great year of blooms and growth. Now is the time to get out and enjoy, or at least start now, people of all ages, the conservation scene in our state.

Our first BMAP outreach event of the upcoming weekend at Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN, was well attended, which was a very high quality event, with many great speakers and presenters. Our next event, on Saturday, May 21st, is our annual open prairie walk, which is a great way to get out and see many early and late blooms.

I'm already hard-line chasers to what a true BMAP prairie or prairie/savanna should look like, and I'm very excited for June to be the growing season. If you have any questions about what I expect/advocate for and/or your property, DM me on the Zoom chat, or contact me at my email: ecologist@bluemonarch.org.

Prairie Smoke (Geum triflorum) and Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea) in Dale's prairie

Prairie Smoke (Geum triflorum) and Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea) in Dale's prairie

If you have any land management questions, I am always happy to communicate via email or over the phone. If you want to discuss invasive plants, prescribed burns, or plant ID, BMAP can always be your support, either through donations, attending community events, or volunteering on the land. Keep in touch! Contact me, or Executive Board President Greg Jones, or email@bluemonarch.org.

Stay Ambitious,
Dale Bradford
Ecologist@bluemonarch.org

BMAP Merchandise now available!

A portion of every purchase goes directly to supporting BMAP and our projects.

BMAP Membership Renewal

Thank you to all the BMAP members that have renewed their membership for 2022. Your support is critical to the continuation and growth of our organization. If you are unsure, you can check your membership status with membership@bluemonarch.org.

BMAP has a new membership option to match our commitment to our mission and community. Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming BMAP Events

O'Brien/Jacques - Pacific Rim Arboretum

BMAP Summer Events

Summer event season is upon us! Most of our summer events involve light to moderate hiking on uneven terrain. Please be prepared for the weather, bring water, and be encouraged! Events are also followed by family and socializing, coming at 4:00ish!

Walk With a Geologist: Hiawatha Valley Conservatory

Saturday, May 30
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
4994 Prairie Valley Rd, Bluff Creek, NY 14503, USA
Leader: Ron Hamel

Our BMAP member and local naturalist Ron Walsh is back to through the geological and ecological history of our area, from the ice age to today. Ron is the other conservation scientist in Rochester.

BMAP Prairie Walk: Bur Oak Woods & Pine Troubled

Saturday, June 4
10:00 - 12:00
2030 Mount Hope Rd, Mount Morris, NY 14510, USA

Join us for a hike through the beautiful Bur Oak and Pine Troubled Tract by Allegheny Outdoors. Bur Oak Woods is a 100 acre tract of land with a variety of habitats, including prairie and protecting the diverse image of southern WI plant communities just north of the Wisconsin Dells.

BMAP Prairie Tour: Jane Hyman & Elizabeth Dunn-Peters

Saturday, June 11
10:00 - 12:00
Wayne County, NY 14502, USA

Join us for a tour of prairie intended by Jane Hyman and Elizabeth Dunn-Peters. Their extensive prairie complex is purely human-planted, with mowed and supplemented by BMAP and local volunteerism contractors for focused co-existing, not woodland and oak savanna.

Walk with a Naturalist: Glenwood Church

Saturday, June 18
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
4899 Glenwood Church Rd, Black Earth, WI 53515, USA

This visit provides common, in-prime of prairie, woodland and an array of wetlands with hiking through the Glenwood Church Prairie. Our naturalist guide will be Dale Bradford, Conservation Ecologist representing Urban Beach representative, Gary Sterling.

BMAP Prairie Walk: Jenkins & Peter Mooks

Saturday, June 25
10:00 - 12:00
5300 Tower Rd, Black Earth, Wisconsin, USA

Jenkins and Peter Mooks' prairie is a 40 acre tract of land, with a variety of woodland, promoting local connect diversity and seeding among other wildlife and plant populations. Join us for reviewing from habitat of varying stages of restoration!

Walk with a Naturalist: Blue Mounds State Park & Prairie with Hermann Hoffmann

Saturday August 6
10:00 - 12:00
Dane County, Mount Vernon, WI 53593, USA

A joint BMAP event with The Prairie Enthusiasts, this a great through-hike tour of Blue Mounds State Park, Ancient Bluegill Prairie Conservation, and walks of the PEA Jewelle Preserve, a 40 acre tract of land with a variety of habitats, including prairie and oak savanna.

Other NW Wisconsin Events & Resources

Given it's hard work that maybe it's the prerogative of BMAP members! Send the information to ecologist@bluemonarch.org

Ice Age Trail Alliance Events & Workdays

If you are looking for a great way to get out and enjoy the beautiful Ice Age Trail, Volunteering to work with a local organization, the IATA has a weekly hike and workdays in the Mount Horeb area, and a variety of other events throughout the state.

Dane County Parks Events

Dane county parks offers a wide list of educational events and volunteer workdays for folks interested in enjoying and restoring grasslands and woodlands.

The Prairie Enthusiasts Workdays

TPE organizes a variety of workdays throughout the year, and many of their workdays repeat regularly in late-mid April, a lucky, if starting the volunteer situation that support TPE properties.

Naturalist's Notebook

Wisconsin's Diversity of Little, White Flowers

Rue Anemone (Thalictrum thalictroides) - Credit: Dale Anderson

In Monarch's, we are lucky enough to have an abundance of diverse, beautiful flowers from April through October. Many of us are grateful to early spring spectacularly, bright and colorful blooms, and we are also grateful for late season blooms, as the majority of pollinator flowers are completing, or ready to be complete, their reproducing. However, there often-times not, much of the diversity found in our state response to its close cousin, the butterfly.

The little, white, flowers that are woodlands are extremely essential pollinator resources, and we can learn quite a lot about their ecology simply by getting down on their level. Many of these species are ephemeral, and are only visible for a short period of time, and are beautiful to the Bees in little Bloomington Bees. Take a look look at these diverse non-dominative flower species!

Bonus content for little, white flowers

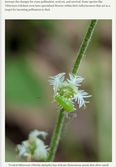
In Monarch's, about a of of the flowers are white, simply the color of flowers are basically pollinator-specific, and pollinators are attracted to them. Pollinators, Bees, Moths, Butterflies, Flies, and Beetles, are attracted to white flowers.

Monarch's research led by retired UW Bonus Professor Dr. Tom Grindeals have also found that white flowers are more attractive to pollinators than other colors. **Flowers with inconspicuous flowers are more frequently accessed and visited than flowers with showy colors. Compact flowers** with open systems that have larger, more-visible, petals are more attractive than those with closed systems and smaller petals. Flowers with greater floral diversity (small flowers, more compounded flowers) tend to be more attractive than those with less floral diversity (single, large flowers). **Flowers that are flat, if you want to go Bad Bolts white flowers early in the growing season, woodlands are your best bet!**

Bigleaf Aster (Eurybia macrophylla) - Credit: Dale Anderson

Early Meadow Rue (Thalictrum dasycarpum) is an example of a wind-pollinated species that has evolved small, white, petal-less flowers. Wind-pollinated species, including ragweed, have lightweight pollen.

Flowers of Early Meadow Rue (Thalictrum dasycarpum) are small, white, petal-less, and wind-pollinated, with no nectar, unlike most other flowers in the prairie and Bees.

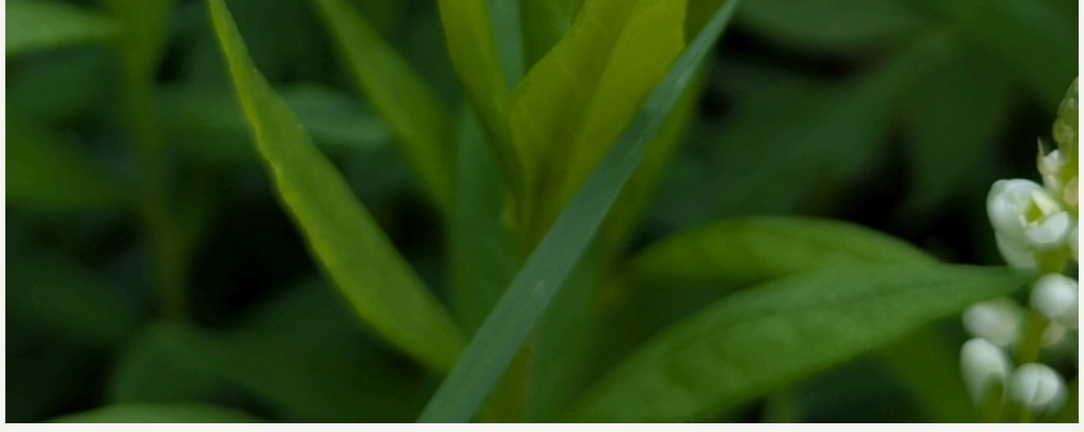


Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pensylvanica) with large clusters of Sparrow grass flowers

Many species with smaller flowers also have flies as visitors. These inflorescences are often flat-topped, with many small flowers, and are often white or yellow-green. Many Dogwoods (Cornus spp.) have small, yellow-green flowers with a few showy flowers that act as a "beacon" to attract pollinators.

Flowers of Dogwoods (Cornus spp.) have small, yellow-green flowers with a few showy flowers that act as a "beacon" to attract pollinators.

Bracted Toothwort (Cardamine bulbosa) is a small, homogamous plant more common in Wisconsin and Illinois, than in MN.



These Seneca Snakeroot (*Senega officinalis*) flowers are days away from opening

This Aniseroot (*Osmorhiza longistylus)* has an inflorescence called a compound umbel that is elevated above the leaves and visible for passing bees and flies.

Little, white flowers are easy to overlook, but they are important floral resources that support a huge diversity of often overlooked pollinators. Many of these species are well adapted to savannas, woodlands, and even some open environments (ex. *Sambucus nigra*). There are numerous examples of both herbs and shrubs that would compliment many native plantings, whether you manage a small backyard or hundreds of acres. Before spring fades into summer, take a closer look at some of the beautiful floral diversity in our state...just remember to bring a hand lens!

BMAP on Facebook

The Blue Mounds Area Project is a good place to find information about upcoming events, but it's a one-way flow of information. Did you know we also have a Facebook group? Joining the BMAP Group is a great way to connect with other BMAP members. To facilitate engagement, we'll soon begin posting regular conversation starters.

At any time you can also post:

- **Restoration-related questions**
- **Requests for help with burns**
- **Extra seeds or plants to share**
- **Photos of what's growing in your prairie or woodland**
- **Anything else that relates to ecological restoration in WI**

The group is open to all landowners and allies in the Driftless Area of WI or surrounding areas who are working to restore native biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Make a donation

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.

Thanks to all our members for your support!

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Questions? Send us an email

Renew your membership

Blue Mounds Area Project
PO Box 332
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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