

# BMAP NEWS



**BMAP**  
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

*Conservation and Community. Together.*

*Spring 2023 • Volume 26 Number 2*

## Power Line Vegetation Needs Your Vote



Photos by Tim Eisele

*Editor's Note: This article is the first in what we hope will be a series of "Notes from Members." BMAP members Tim and Linda Eisele own 100 acres in Crawford County. They gave a presentation about their prairie restoration efforts several years ago. They were the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation's Woodland Owners of the Year in 2005 and received the Crawford County Forestry Award in 2011.*

*By Tim Eisele*

Landowners in Dane, Grant, Crawford, Vernon and several other counties should pay attention to and vote on a local resolution on the Conservation Congress Spring hearing questionnaire in April.

This local resolution urges the Conservation Congress to advise the Wisconsin DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation Bureau to request two actions from power line companies. The first is that these companies

refrain from mowing during the summer months, and the second is that they work with private landowners to manage vegetation near power lines for insect and wildlife habitat.

The problem is that some companies that operate electric power lines throughout Wisconsin are mowing ground vegetation under their lines during nesting season, destroying valuable habitat.

Power companies need to eliminate tall trees growing under power lines

so that the trees don't impact the electrical transmission lines. But some companies also use large mowers to completely mow down all ground vegetation, including milkweed, hazel, dogwood and native prairie plants. (See the "before" and "after" photos of the author's property.)

Milkweed is the one basic plant required by the monarch butterfly, which is considered "endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that the monarch is "a candidate for listing" on its endangered species list. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants, which are also the

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greg Jones

It looks like we made it through another winter. As all vegetable gardeners and baseball fans know, at this time of year “hope springs eternal.” For me, that hope of possibilities is also true regarding my small prairies

that I started about 10 years ago. Every year brings differences and surprises. Something new shows up, or a patch of something else is much bigger or smaller. It is both fun and rewarding to watch them evolve and mature.

This winter was challenging for our Conservation Conversation lecture series. It snowed every Thursday, which forced us to postpone two lectures. We were able to reschedule, though, and all of the lectures were successful in the end. If you missed these talks or want to re-watch any

of them, just search for “BMAP Ecologist” on YouTube or visit [bluemounds.org/recorded-webinars](http://bluemounds.org/recorded-webinars).

Our newsletter editor, Jenn Chakravorty, had to move on from BMAP this winter. We thank her for all the fine work she did. She will be missed. We were able to fill the role and are excited that Grace Vosen has joined our team. The issue in your hand is proof that she will do an excellent job for us. If you see Grace, please thank her for her service to BMAP.

Be sure to check out the full list of events we have planned for this summer. You can read about them in this newsletter. We are also continuing to hold work parties; if you're interested in participating, they are also listed in this issue.

A quick reminder that all membership dues are to be paid by the first of the year. If you have not paid for 2023, this may be your

# ECOLOGIST'S REPORT

By Josh Pletzer, BMAP Ecologist



Josh Pletzer

Hello and happy spring! I hope that as you read this, spring is picking up momentum, with more plants and animals emerging every day. According to the NOAA seasonal

outlook at the time of writing, we might be in for a wetter-than-average spring. This may be a blessing or a curse for our prescribed fire activities, depending on just how much precipitation we get. At least there might be more good days for torching garlic mustard seedlings while the ground is damp!

I'm excited to be gearing up for another site visit season after winter's long denial of botanizing. By the time of this newsletter's publication, anyone who has signed up for a site visit for this year should have received an email to set up an appointment. Please get in touch with me at [ecologist@bluemounds.org](mailto:ecologist@bluemounds.org) or 608-571-4501 if yours is missing. We have discovered recurring issues with emails going missing, due to either being caught up in spam filters or just plain old vanishing into the ether...

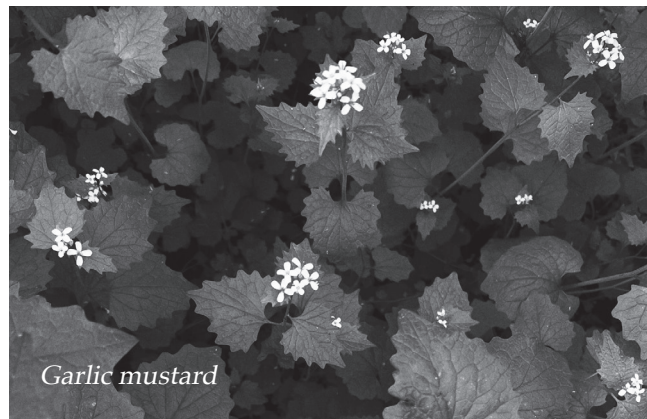
I'm also excited to announce that I'm working with BMAP on a pilot project to expand our popular site visits program. This program would include mini-visits to give conservation pointers for our members who have suburban yards. If you're interested in incorporating native plantings into your yard but

last newsletter.

Some folks have reported trouble receiving our eBulletin. I had trouble myself. It ended up in my spam folder. If you think that you're not getting the eBulletin, check your spam folder. If you find it there, then you should mark the email as safe so it ends up in your inbox.

I could write more, but it's time for me to check on my burn breaks and get things ready for the burning of the prairie. Early spring is also a great time to try and get a handle on some garlic mustard, as it is one of the earliest plants to show itself in the spring. This is the year I get rid of all of the garlic mustard.

Yes, this is a hopeful time of year indeed. 🌱



Garlic mustard

Photo by Kadir Celep / Unsplash

aren't sure where to begin, this may be of interest to you. It's important to recognize that suburban yards have the potential to contribute significantly to species conservation — especially given that lawns occupy roughly 163,800 square kilometers in the United States. This is an area nearly equivalent to the total land area of Wisconsin. In an age of impending mass extinction, let's employ every opportunity at our disposal to be good stewards of life on this planet. 🌱

## LITERATURE CITED:

- Milesi, C., Running, S.W., Elvidge, C.D. et al. Mapping and Modeling the Biogeochemical Cycling of Turf Grasses in the United States. Environmental Management 36, 426–438 (2005).

# BLUE MOUNDS PHENOLOGY



Skunk cabbage

Photo by Pat Trochlell

*Editor's Note: We're excited to debut this new recurring column about phenology! Pat Trochlell has generously offered to share her expertise as a wetland ecologist and her perspective as the site steward of Pleasure Valley Conservancy.*

By Pat Trochlell

What's the first sign you notice that signals to you that spring has arrived? Is it the appearance of the first robin singing his cheery song as he perches in a tree outside your home? Or is it the first dooryard violet to bloom along a woodland path? Or maybe the first butterfly you see flutter past? According to Randy Hoffman, author of *When Things Happen: A Guide to Natural Events in Wisconsin*, many naturalists consider their favorite bird arrival, woodland frog chorus or blooming plant as harbingers of spring.

If you're judging by the first robin, they may not have all flown up from the south. They might have been around during the winter. Some robins will overwinter as long as they can find berries for food. In many winters, you can find them in trees or shrubs that bear fruit or perched near flowing springs that provide a warmer microclimate.

So which birds are the early spring

migrants to watch for? Are sandhill cranes a sign of spring, or just the promise of spring yet to come? Searching through my nature journal, I've noted the early-April arrival of woodcock, towhees, thrashers and many species of sparrows. It's a good time to listen for the “Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada” song of the white-throated sparrow, considered by some to be the most beautiful sparrow song. By the second week of April, several species of warblers are starting to arrive.

If you're looking for the earliest spring plant to bloom, it is likely to be either skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) or silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). Both are wetland plants, and you'll have to find springs or groundwater seeps to see the skunk cabbage flowers. If you don't want to get your feet wet, you can often find silver maples planted along streets in urban areas. Silver maples have pretty green and red flowers, but you

may need binoculars to see them high up in the tall trees.

If you prefer to wander in prairies, pasqueflowers (*Anemone patens*) may be the earliest blooming plant to look for on dry slopes. Female bumblebees emerging in early April may rely on pasqueflowers to provide a valuable early food resource.

Another sign of spring is the chorus of the earliest group of frogs and toads as they gather in their communal breeding ponds and sloughs. Spring peepers are one of the smallest critters that collectively can produce one of the loudest sounds.

Some naturalists observe other signs of spring, like the sweet scent of the earth as the soil thaws or the numerous dark plumes of smoke where prescribed burns are taking place. As for me, an avowed sedge lover, I like to think spring has arrived when the first Pennsylvania sedges (*Carex pensylvanica*) start to bloom on sandy wooded hillsides. The lovely carmine-red scales of the male flowers are surrounded and complemented by showy yellow stamens.

What's your favorite sign of spring? 🌱



only food that caterpillars eat once the eggs hatch. Mowing in mid-summer not only destroys the plant but also any eggs that adult monarchs have deposited on the leaves.

The vegetation below power lines is often remnant native vegetation or shrubs that provide habitat for amphibians, wild turkeys and late-nesting songbirds. In addition, if power companies trim oak trees adjacent to the lines in early summer, this can leave open wounds that expose the trees to oak wilt.

Power lines traverse the entire state of Wisconsin, with just two companies owning over 13,000 miles of lines. This entire management regime is beneath the radar of many people. But to a landowner who sees cherished native species succumb to the grinding and chopping blades of a large mowing head, it is frustrating at best. It could also easily be avoided.

Power line companies like to publicize that they plant prairie species in urban locations, while they spray herbicide or mow along hundreds of miles of easements on private land.

When we see these abuses, landowners and non-landowners alike need to speak out. As Robin Wall Kimmerer writes in her excellent book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “Suppression of our natural responses to disaster is part of the disease of our time.” You can help stand up for native species this spring.

Find the questionnaire and vote online: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Monarch Joint Venture, [monarchjointventure.org](http://monarchjointventure.org)
- Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group (Illinois), [rightofway.erc.uic.edu](http://rightofway.erc.uic.edu)
- “Utility Helping Wildlife”, an article about the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative’s MOU with the National Wild Turkey Federation, by Ron Brenneman (Turkey Call Magazine, September/October 1993)

FROM THE EDITOR



Grace Vosen

Spring greetings from Spring Green! Earlier this year, the BMAP Board of Directors hired me as Editor of this newsletter. I’m thankful for the chance to help you tell your stories.

While I don’t live in the Blue Mounds area proper, my connection to it is strong. My first internship in my chosen field of prairie restoration took place in the shadow of the mounds. Since then, I’ve worked, volunteered, taught, learned, hiked, picnicked, battled invasives and collected seeds with folks who call the hills and valleys of Blue Mounds their home.

And they — or rather, you — are the heart of this publication. Have you ever...

- ...Taken a photo?
- ...Read a book?
- ...Told a story about an experience on the land?
- ...Attended a workshop?
- ...Wanted to start a discussion?

If so, then your fellow BMAP community members and I want to read about it. Send your conservation stories (and photos!) to [newsletter@bluemounds.org](mailto:newsletter@bluemounds.org).

As our woods and prairies awaken to another growing season, I hope 2023 brings a wealth of opportunities to learn and grow in the Blue Mounds area. Prairie on!

What is the Conservation Congress?

By Tim Eisele

The Conservation Congress is basically an organization of citizens that advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and DNR. Its predecessor began in 1934, when Aldo Leopold (then professor of game management at UW-Madison), chief conservation warden Harley MacKenzie and superintendent of game William Grimmer designed a county-based system of citizen involvement.



The Conservation Commission followed by officially creating what was then known as the County Game Committees. This institutionalized citizen involvement in natural resources policies and decisions, unique to Wisconsin, was named the Conservation Congress in 1939. In 1972, Governor Lucey signed a bill that gave the Congress statutory authority to advise the Natural Resources Board.

In the past, the Congress has held spring meetings and the DNR has held official spring public hearings on the second Monday in April. This year, that changed to an “open house” held in each county in late March.

But citizens can still vote on the online questionnaire between April 10-13. The questionnaire includes fish, wildlife and other natural resources questions proposed by the DNR, the Congress and local citizens who submitted resolutions in each county. Voting can be done by computer or smartphone.

Everyone can and should vote on these questions, as indeed natural resources are owned by everyone and held in trust by the state and federal governments.



Photo by David Lucey

Prairies and Bluebirds: If You Build it, Will They Come?

Editor’s Note: An earlier form of this article appeared in The Prairie Promoter, the newsletter of The Prairie Enthusiasts.

By David Lucey

Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and The Prairie Enthusiasts, along with many individual landowners, are working to establish prairies of a hundred acres or more. One of the main purposes for providing these large acreages is to support ground-nesting birds. Meadowlarks, bobolinks and dickcissels require an area this size to avoid discovery by predators such as cats, coyotes and raccoons. Bluebirds, however, are cavity-dwellers and use naturally existing spaces in trees as well as cavities that have been excavated by a woodpecker.

Tree cavities may be found in the oaks populating a savanna, but large prairies are often devoid of any trees except on the edges. This presence of trees and shrubs along the perimeter creates a habitat favored by the house wren. These feisty little birds are likely to compete with the bluebirds and will often throw bluebird eggs or young out from the nesting cavity. For this reason, and the fact that wrens are a protected species themselves, it is important to avoid wren habitat when placing nest boxes.

This does not mean that prairies can’t provide excellent habitat for bluebirds. With appropriately constructed and properly placed

nest boxes, plus active monitoring, a prairie can be a wonderful site for bluebirds to raise one or two broods during the spring and summer months.

One key consideration is that bluebirds are insect eaters and seek insects on the ground, rather than on the wing as tree swallows do. Prairies with firebreaks and trails that are mowed make ideal feeding areas. Prairies with thin soils and short plants may also provide the resources that bluebirds need without these mowed strips. Tallgrass prairies are unlikely to be selected by bluebirds, unless they include a place where the birds can get to the ground. A burned tallgrass prairie may initially attract bluebirds, but as the vegetation grows back it may become too high for the second brood later that summer.

Once your nest box has been selected by a bluebird pair, the box should be monitored weekly for several threats. House sparrows are deadly competitors of bluebirds and often live on or near farms with an abundance of grain as a food source. They use cavities to raise their young and will often take over a nest box, killing the young bluebirds and sometimes the adults.

Weekly inspections may also show that the box is hosting blackflies and ants, insects that

affect the success of the young as they mature and fledge. Blackflies especially have been responsible for young bluebird mortality. Regular inspections can identify and address this problem.

All nest boxes should have guards attached to the entry hole (see photo), so raccoons and cats cannot reach the young birds. These guards can be easily constructed or purchased and attached to any bluebird house. When the guard is in place, it makes it very difficult for these predators to access the box.

The Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin wants to help bluebirds thrive in our prairies and on your property. There are a number of promotions to try and grow the number of bluebird boxes on the land. More information can be found on the BRAW website, [braw.org](http://braw.org).

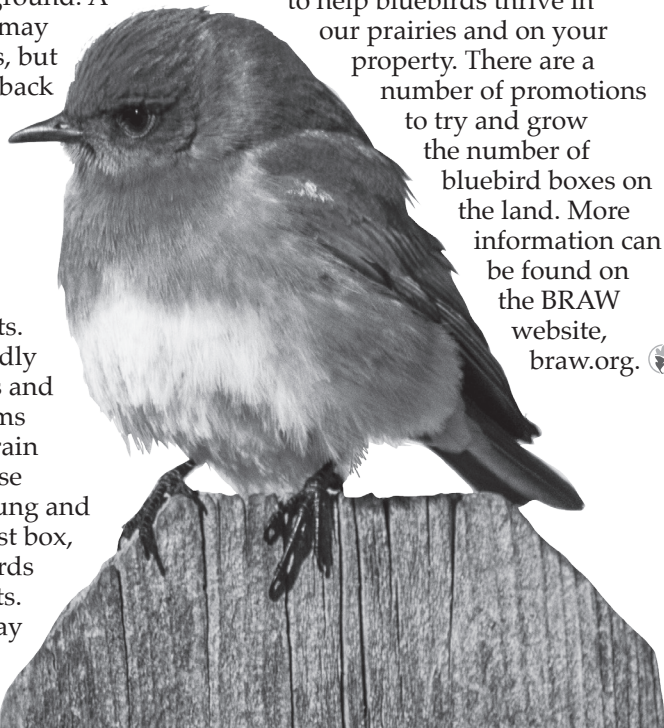


Photo by Joshua Cotten / Unsplash



## When you see a wild animal that appears hungry or injured, your first reaction may be to try to help.

While you may have the best intentions when trying to save or care for an animal, you could unknowingly cause more harm than good. Instead of stepping in yourself, the best plan of action is to call your closest wildlife rehabilitator. Wildlife rehabilitators are people that are trained and licensed to care for wild animals that are sick, injured or orphaned.

First, look for what might indicate that a wild animal needs help. Does

the animal show any of the following signs or conditions?

- Evidence of bruising, bleeding or injury
- An apparent broken limb
- Starving, very weak, shivering, cold or wet
- Attacked or brought in by a dog, cat or other predator
- Circling, rolling or staggering
- For young animals:
  - Extended periods of vocalization and wandering
  - Repeatedly approaching people or pets
  - Parent is known to be no longer present or deceased

If the animal is showing any of the above signs, they likely need the assistance of your local wildlife rehabilitator. Many rehabilitators have their contact information listed through Animal Help Now ([ahnow.org](http://ahnow.org)) and through the Wisconsin DNR's rehabilitator directory (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/directory.html>).

Do not be discouraged if they do not answer the phone when you call; most rehabilitators are busy performing daily

animal care and need callers to leave a message.

While waiting for a rehabilitator in your area to call back, do not provide food or water to injured, sick or orphaned wild animals. Doing so can pose a variety of risks. For example, young animals are constantly growing and eager to eat; however, if fed too quickly, they could inhale food. This could result in aspiration pneumonia or refeeding syndrome. Refeeding syndrome is the process of incorrectly reintroducing food after malnourishment or starvation, which can be fatal. Other concerns are that animals suffering from head trauma may fall into a food or water dish (becoming wet and hypothermic), or that animals may be offered food items that are inappropriate or toxic for their species.

Wisconsin's captive wildlife regulations allow a person to possess a wild animal for up to 24 hours for the purpose of transferring that animal to an appropriately licensed individual (such as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator). Typically, a rehabilitator will get in touch with callers and take an animal

in need within less than 24 hours. It is important to note that the longer a wild animal goes without receiving professional medical care, the more likely it is to have complications that could prevent it from being returned to the wild. In addition, attempted medical care by the general public can hurt wildlife and potentially worsen their injuries. It is best to safely contain an animal, leave it in a quiet area and not perform any type of care unless directed to do so by a rehabilitator. This allows the animal to rest and reduces their stress until they can be transported for care.

Some people take injured and even healthy mammals, birds or other native creatures into their homes for an extended period of time, treating them like pets. Not only is this illegal; it can also cause long-term and sometimes permanent harm to these animals. Wild species have highly specialized needs for proper vitamin and mineral balance, housing, enrichment, temperature and lighting. Too much or too little of any of these aspects of care can be harmful depending on the species, age and injury.

For instance, turtles without the correct lighting or diet can become deficient in calcium, leading to weak bones. A young mammal or bird raised too closely and comfortably with people may no longer be able to identify with its own species or reproduce successfully. Wild animals also may have parasites or other diseases that can be transmitted to people or companion animals.

If you come across a wild animal that you believe needs care, reach out for help right away. Wildlife rehabilitators can work with you to determine the best course of action. Sometimes the animals don't need help at all, such as young birds still learning to fly. If the animal is too young and found alone, rehabilitators can walk you through how to reunite that animal with their parents. Or they can admit the animal right away and avoid behavioral and nutritional issues, giving that individual a better chance at a successful release.

The goal of wildlife rehabilitation is to release animals that display normal behavior towards people and other animals, so they can successfully survive and reproduce in the wild. Caring members of the public are a key part of that process. By quickly getting animals to knowledgeable and licensed caretakers, many wild lives can be saved. 🐾



## Winter Lecture Series Reviews



Photo by Greg Jones

### Conservation Conversations

By Steve Gauger

BMAP's winter lecture series returned this year in-person at the Mount Horeb Senior Center. The topics covered were "Understanding Conservation Easements", "Collecting and Cleaning of Native Seeds" and "The Domestic Wilderness: Invigorate Your Suburban Yard With Semi-Wild Plantings."

The first program provided information on the importance of conservation easements and the process and benefits of pursuing an easement on your property. Carroll Schaal explained why BMAP, as a community-based organization, works to inspire landowners to restore their properties and find a way to "see it stick around". He further explained that an easement is a great tool to protect the investment and hard work you put into your property.

Panelists Mark Rooney and Carla Wright, landowners who have gone through this process, then gave their reasons for doing it and talked about the benefits to their land. DNR fisheries biologist Justin Haglund talked about easements on fishing streams. Stephanie Judge of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, who specializes in helping property owners achieve their preservation objectives, emphasized why this

effort is so important in the one-of-a-kind Driftless Area. While the process may seem complex, the long term benefits make it worthwhile for many. Whether you choose to sell or donate an easement, you are still saving your land for future generations and preserving native species and wildlife.

The second Conservation presentation was by Ron Endres. Ron has been volunteering to collect native seeds for 15 years, primarily for use by nonprofits. He collects the seeds from a wide variety of sources on public and private lands. Ron has been involved in 75 prairie restorations and over 100 planting projects with nonprofit organizations. He has harvested 191 species and over 600 pounds of seeds, valued at an estimated \$225,000.

Ron emphasized the importance of getting permission to harvest seeds no matter what the source. He also encouraged first getting proper training and experience by volunteering with other groups. He talked about being aggressive in seeking opportunities to harvest, then harvesting at the proper time and in reasonable quantities. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the various methods for harvesting and processing seeds. The audience showed great interest, which bodes

well for our natural environment.

In the third presentation, BMAP ecologist Josh Pletzer covered the reasons, the process and the resources to plant native species in a suburban yard. He used topographic maps of our region to illustrate vegetative cover and land use. These maps showed that our landscape does not have enough habitat for native species to prosper. There is not enough space left on our planet for all our species due to the extreme loss of habitat. While we can't save everything, Josh stated, we can create "lifeboats" in our own yards by bringing more species to them. No property is too small.

Next, Josh covered the steps for getting started on this type of project, maintaining it over the years, and obtaining additional information on restoring native diversity in our yards. His revealing analogy was that passengers on the Titanic didn't know the ship was sinking until it was too late to board lifeboats, of which there were not enough. He suggested that we try to avoid the same fate for native diversity by creating habitats in our own yards. By doing this, we can help mitigate mass extinction, increase the variety and vivaciousness of our yards and even achieve a measure of personal health benefits from our efforts. 🌱

# Call the Wildlife Rehabilitator!

By Sarah Karls, Senior Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center



Photos by Wildlife Center



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2023 WALKS WITH A NATURALIST

### Walking Iron County Park Sunday, May 7

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for a spring walk at Dane County’s Walking Iron Park. Bring your binoculars! Spring bird activity will be a focus, plus a discussion of the ecology, plants and land management goals of this beautiful park. We’ll walk the trails along the prairie, woodlands and wetlands. Snacks and water will be provided.

**Where:**

6064 Beckman Road, Mazomanie, WI 53560. We will meet in the parking lot.

**Trip Leaders:**

The walk will be led by a group of Wisconsin Master Naturalist volunteers.

### UW-Madison Arboretum Wednesday, June 12 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Learn more about the composition and function of these natural communities from the soil to the treetops, and about the process and priorities of management and restoration at the Arboretum.

**Where:**

1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711. There are two ways to reach the Visitor Center. Visit [arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/getting-here](http://arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/getting-here) for details. The building is closed in the evenings, so we will meet at the front door.

**Trip Leaders:**

Darcy Kind is a conservation biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Darcy works as a private lands biologist in the Driftless Area and focuses on improving habitat for at-risk species. She was a former board member of the Friends of the Arboretum and is on a panel to review the Arboretum Research Fellowships.

Mia Keady is an Environment and Resources PhD student at UW-Madison. Mia is interested in soil microbial ecology and carbon dynamics in grasslands. She is studying how above-ground inputs (plant litter) and below-ground inputs (roots and microbes) build carbon in long-term research sites at the Arboretum.

### Rare Earth Farm Saturday, August 5 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Take a midsummer tour of oak savanna and woodland at Rare Earth Farm. The landowners have recently established a conservation easement with Driftless Area Land Conservancy. The area was previously grazed and the remnant native plant communities were very degraded, but they showed remarkable recovery once fire was restored to the landscape. See the potential of the land to heal when given the chance with good management practices! Snacks and water will be provided.

**Where:**

N9076 York Center Road, Blanchardville, WI 53516. Pull into the driveway and someone will guide you to a place to park.

**Trip Leaders:**

Craig Annen, Operations Manager and Director of Research at Integrated Restorations, LLC, has worked on the restoration of this property and will lead our tour.



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# BMAP Work Parties Return

By Tom Broman

We are the bearers of glad tidings: work parties are back! The first trial run of the work party initiative went reasonably well last year, although it was disrupted by mini-outbreaks of COVID and some issues with timing. This year, with a full year’s experience to build upon, we have decided to set a schedule of fixed dates for hosting work parties, roughly one per month.

Work parties are a fun way to share the process of improving your land, especially in carrying out repetitive and not very difficult or technical tasks (like cutting and treating shrubby invasives, pulling garlic mustard and so forth). The benefits of having such parties, lasting 2-3 hours, are both social and practical. On the social side of the ledger, work parties invite us to get to know each other better and perhaps share a drink or snack before, after or during the work. The potential practical benefits speak for themselves.

We hope and expect that everyone who signs up to host a work party will also share in the work on other properties, to the extent that their schedules will allow. The available dates for scheduling work parties on your property are Apr 29, May 20, June 24, July 29, August 26, Sept. 30 and Oct 28. All you need to do to sign up for a particular date is email Tom Broman at [workparty@bluemounds.org](mailto:workparty@bluemounds.org). If the date is available, Tom will confirm it for you.

We will do our best to keep an up-to-date work party schedule on the BMAP website, with additional updates in the newsletter. 🌍

## Natural Communities of Southwestern Wisconsin Class

By Josh Pletzer

This popular field class, organized and led by the Botanical Club of Wisconsin, is being offered to BMAP members again this year. Registration is limited to 15 participants. However, in the past there have been some cancellations and people on the waitlist have been able to attend. To learn more and be placed on the waitlist, contact [ecologist@bluemounds.org](mailto:ecologist@bluemounds.org). 🌍

## NEW BMAP MEMBERS

Amanda Cullen  
Stephen Hubner & Mary Zimmerman  
Tammee King  
Micah Kloppenburg



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# BMAP Summer Property Tours

**Holy Wisdom Monastery's  
Wisdom Prairie  
Wednesday, June 14  
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Explore a restored landscape where ecological and spiritual renewal coexist. Holy Wisdom Monastery manages 191 acres of restored prairie, savanna and woodlands overlooking Lake Mendota. Amy Alstad, Director of Land Management and Environmental Education at Holy Wisdom, will be our guide. Amy has a PhD in ecology from UW-Madison, a decade of professional experience in the field of environmental stewardship and a deep-rooted family tradition of prairie restoration spanning four generations.

**Where:**

4200 County Road M, Middleton, WI 53562. Take the right fork of the driveway (towards the monastery building). Meet at the information kiosk at the top of the parking lot.

**John and Darla Patterson  
Saturday, July 15  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

The Pattersons purchased their land in 2015 and immediately began an extensive restoration project with the help of Quercus Land Stewardship. Enjoy a tour of their property, which has now been under their care for eight years and includes restored oak savannas and oak forests, lovely pine relicts, a converted pasture and a ridge with incredible views of the Driftless Area.

**Where:**

8149 Sweeney Road,  
Barneveld, WI 53507

**Kahl Halfway Prairie Park  
Saturday, August 19  
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Owned and managed by the Town of Berry, Kahl Halfway Prairie Park is a multi-use park with a prairie planting, wetland habitat and a scrape pond for waterfowl. The park was developed and is maintained in large part by grants, gifts and volunteer time of town residents. The native plants were seeded in 2006 from a combination of locally collected and purchased seeds. Christine Molling will lead the tour of this property that hosts plant communities ranging from wet emergent through dry-mesic.

**Where:**

9046 State Highway 19,  
Mazomanie, WI 53560. The park is adjacent to the Berry Town Hall.

**BMAP ANNUAL PICNIC AND  
BUR OAK AWARD PRESENTATION  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9  
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Where: Indian Lake County Park  
8183 State Highway 19  
Cross Plains, WI 53528**

**We will meet in the park shelter.**

Join us for BMAP's annual end-of-summer Potluck Picnic and Bur Oak Award Presentation at Indian Lake County Park. Volunteer David Lucey will speak about restoration on the property, and the Bur Oak Award will be presented to this year's outstanding land steward.

Brats, buns, drinks, dessert and utensils will be provided. Bring your favorite potluck dish and get to know your fellow BMAP members over a meal and great conversation.



**Driftless Area Land  
Conservancy:**  
*protecting land in southwest  
Wisconsin*

Nearly 8,000 acres of land  
protected from  
development, forever

4 public nature preserves

Landowner workshops,  
community events,  
volunteer opportunities

**Come see what we're all  
about!**

***driftlessconservancy.org***



# BMAP ONLINE

[www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org)

## eBULLETIN

BMAP's monthly eBulletin for announcements, habitat restoration tips, and more:  
**[bluemounds.org/connect](http://bluemounds.org/connect)**



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



## BMAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[ecologist@bluemounds.org](mailto:ecologist@bluemounds.org)  
  
Interested in volunteering with the Blue Mounds Area Project?  
Contact us at: [info@bluemounds.org](mailto:info@bluemounds.org)  
608-571-4501

## 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.

## 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:

☐ Basic \$40      ☐ Contributor \$70      ☐ Supporter \$100      ☐ Lifetime \$1000

*All memberships, except lifetime, follow the calendar year.*

☐ Additional donation beyond your annual membership: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL MEMBERSHIP / DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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>

☐ YES, I would like to receive information about site visits.    ☐ I'm interested in volunteer opportunities with BMAP.

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





**BMAP**  
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

P.O. Box 332  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572



Photo by Peter Gorman

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## **BMAPNEWS**

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

We welcome your comments, submissions, and advertisements.

Newsletter editor: Grace Vosen (newsletter@bluemounds.org) Graphic Design: Tom Senatori

[www.bluemounds.org](http://www.bluemounds.org)

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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.