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**BMAP**  
BLUE MOUNDS AREA PROJECT

## February 2025: Blue Mounds Area Project eBulletin

*Conservation and Community. Together.*



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## Outreach Ecologist's Updates

*Sam Anderson*

Hello BMAP,

I hope you've been enjoying our snowpack as we move into late winter. I've noticed Chickadees singing on our sunnier mornings, meaning our progress towards spring is already beginning!

As we begin thinking about the growing season, I'm officially opening up [BMAP's Site Visit Questionnaire](#) for folks interested in a 2025 Site Visit. Depending on the level of interest, openings for site visits may be limited. If you are interested, expect to hear from me directly about planning a specific date/time for a site visit in mid-March.



White Turtlehead - *Chelone glabra* (*Sam Anderson*)

As we move into the new year, make sure your [Annual Membership](#) is up to date, especially if you are interested in a site visit. Member dues are the primary form of support for BMAP, allowing us to inform private land management, improve ecosystem diversity and function, and build community within our region. You can also support BMAP by involving family, friends, and neighbors interested in land stewardship. [Encourage them to enroll as new members](#) and join our community.

Beyond BMAP events and site visits, I am an available resource for BMAP members throughout the year. I am always happy to communicate via [email](#) or over the phone if you have questions or would like insight into land stewardship specific to your property.

*Conversations, or Walks with a Naturalist, consider an additional [donation to BMAP](#). so we can continue serving the SW Wisconsin region.*

All the Best,  
Sam Anderson  
**Outreach Ecologist**  
[ecologist@bluemounds.org](mailto:ecologist@bluemounds.org).

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## Upcoming BMAP Events

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*Photo by Brooke Lewis*

### **BMAP 2025 Winter Lecture Series**

Hear from regional scientists and land stewards about various aspects of local ecology and restoration

All events begin at 7:00 pm, and are held at the  
Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street.

## Garlic Mustard: Natural History & Management

Greg Jones - BMAP President

Sam Anderson - BMAP Outreach Ecologist

Here about the natural history and the biology behind one of Wisconsin's most persistent invasive species. Learn about on-the-ground experiences and techniques in managing and controlling Garlic Mustard in southern Wisconsin forests.

### In case you missed them:

#### Restoration at the former Badgerland Munitions Property

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

Hear from a representative of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance about their efforts in the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, including management goals, progress, and highlights.

#### Coyotes in Our Grasslands

(recording forthcoming)

Carl Anderson

Learn about coyotes' behavior and impacts on grassland communities in southern Wisconsin. Gain a better perspective on the importance and complexity of Wisconsin's most abundant wild canine.

## Other SW Wisconsin Events & Resources



*Photo by Brooke Lewis*

*Know of a local event that might be of interest to BMAP Members? Send the information to [ecologist@bluemounds.org](mailto:ecologist@bluemounds.org)*

## Dane County Parks: Classes, Workdays, and Seed Processing

Dane County Parks does a great job of bringing community together around public lands, including offering various classes, workdays to practice skills, and hands-on packaging of native prairie seed.

### TPE Workdays and Events

The Prairie Enthusiasts also offer regular opportunities to work on restoration projects throughout the region. If you'd like some hands-on experience with knowledgeable stewards, TPE is a great group!

### Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference

A joint conference between the Extension offices of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, this conference in Dubuque, IA is specifically focused on private landowner questions and issues surrounding land management.

**NATURALIST'S NOTEBOOK****UW Extension: A Clearinghouse for Land Management Resources***Photo Credit: Brooke Lewis*

A large part of my job as the Outreach Ecologist for BMAP is providing connections and resources to BMAP members that help them reach their stewardship goals. I'll often direct landowners to WDNR resources and cost-share programs through federal agencies, but I most often direct BMAP members to UW-Extension, simply because the decades of work by Extension has resulted in a wealth of resources, classes, and connections that naturally support any private landowner as they manage their property.

**What is Extension?**

**Extension**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

should positively impact the lives of people in Wisconsin. Extension does this through a number of programs, ranging from supporting [Agriculture](#), [Youth outreach](#) (like 4-H), providing resources for [Health & Wellness](#), and promoting [Community Development](#).

Extension employees are scattered all over the state, with most counties having an [Extension office](#). These employees are professors, professionals, educators, and coordinators, working in tandem with many partners, including the WDNR, US Fish and Wildlife, US Department of Agriculture, and various other non-profit and community organizations. Extension employees are regular guests in university and community publications, and you have likely listened to Extension folks if you listen to WPR (especially Larry Meiller). If you want to get into contact with an environmental organization in Wisconsin, Extension is the first place you should look!

## Extension Resources for New (and Experienced) Landowners



### Natural Resources Institute Division of Extension

Within Extension, The [Natural Resources Institute](#) is specifically focused on providing resources and programs related to our woodlands, grasslands, water resources, and fish & game. As landowners, we all have unique and varied goals and questions about stewardship. Extension's resources for [Land Stewardship](#) is a great place to begin exploring what types of resources, education, and programs are available to meet your specific goals. In particular, they provide excellent guidance on:

[Grasslands](#) - including how to explore and choose cost-sharing programs with state & federal agencies

[New Landowners](#) - Buying property is exciting, but the logistics of owning and stewarding land are never-ending! Extension is actively working to compile resources for new woodland owners as they get to know their property.

[Invasive Species Management](#) - Dr. Mark Renz has compiled the most up-to-date information on how to best manage most invasive species in WI. I highly recommend the work from his lab

## UW-Madison Extension Forestry



Since woodlands often involve both economic and ecological questions that are unique to forest systems, Extension has developed all sorts of resources specifically dedicated to helping landowners navigate harvests, planting, and management through [UW-Extension Forestry](#).

Importantly, Extension offers opportunities for landowners to connect with each other, representatives from state and federal programs, and learn more to support their particular management goals. Below are a few upcoming events through extension that may be of interest

[Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference](#) - a woodland owner-centric conference that shares science-based information and resources to forest landowners and stewards, and has done so for over 25 years.

[Your Land, Your Legacy](#) - A biweekly, online class that helps landowners navigate how to transition stewardship of their property from one generation to the next

[Wisconsin Stewardship Plan Project](#) - This project connects landowners with a forester, if needed, and will cover the cost of the Forest Stewardship Plan that involves harvest, planting and management.

[Extension-Forestry Printable Resources](#) - These resources range from managing a sugar bush to dealing with invasive species. There are plenty of interesting resources that likely fit your woodland!

## Conclusion

We are lucky in Wisconsin to benefit from a wealth of agencies, programs, non-profits, and community groups invested in the management of our natural resources. However, navigating all of these partnerships and finding the right resources can be challenging. When in doubt, I always check with Extension to see what groups and information might align with my interests, and I encourage you to do the same!

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

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